

23 April 2026

Headache & Migraine Service

1. Service existence and configuration

- (a) Does your NHS body host, or directly provide a dedicated headache and/or migraine service/clinic? If yes, please specify whether it is: dedicated headache clinic; migraine clinic; neurology clinic with dedicated headache sessions; community service; or other (please describe)**

Yes. Belfast Trust provides a dedicated headache service, delivered through weekly Headache Clinics for adult patients with migraine and other headache disorders. These clinics are delivered as scheduled outpatient clinical sessions and are based in the Outpatients Department, Level 9, Royal Victoria Hospital.

- (b) Please provide the service name(s), provider organisation(s)/site(s), and patient group(s) served (adult, paediatric, or both).**

Complex Headache Service, Belfast Trust, Adults

2. Named clinical/service lead

- (a) Please provide the name, job title, and employing organisation of the current named clinical/service lead for the headache/migraine service/pathway.**

Dr Thomas Peukert, Consultant Neurologist, Belfast Trust WTE

- (b) If there is no single named lead, please provide the name(s) and title(s) of the most senior clinician(s) responsible for headache/migraine care/pathway governance.**

3. Workforce size (headcount and WTE)

For the most recent 12-month period available (or the latest point-in-time establishment), please provide the staffing complement allocated to the headache/migraine service/pathway, broken down as follows:

- (a) Nurses (including headache specialist nurses/ANPs) – headcount and WTE, and banding (e.g., Agenda for Change band) if recorded.**

2 Headache Nurse Specialist Band 8A WTE

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(b) Pharmacists (clinical pharmacists, prescribing pharmacists, medicines optimisation) – headcount and WTE, and banding/grade if recorded.

No Pharmacist assigned to the Team, currently trying to recruit 0.5

(c) Administrative/clerical staff – headcount and WTE, and banding/grade if recorded.

1 Headache Coordinator Band 5 WTE, 2 Band 4 Medical Secretaries WTE

(d) Any other staff groups materially involved in the service (optional but helpful): consultants/medical staff, allied health professionals, psychologist, physician associates – headcount and WTE.

2 Advanced Practice Physiotherapists Band 8A WTE, 1 Clinical Fellow WTE, Specialist Clinical Psychologist, Adult Neuropsychology Band 8A WTE, GP with a specialist interest in headaches on a sessional basis.

4. Service capacity indicators (optional but helpful)

(a) Number of headache/migraine clinics/sessions delivered per week or per month (or annual total).

We have in total 11 clinics per week

Monday	Complex Nurse led Botox, Complex Physio Led Botox, Headache Recue clinic- All AM
Tuesday	Headache Mabs Clinic AM, Headache Helpline PM
Wednesday	Complex Headache Clinic, Complex Headache Virtual Clinic Both AM, Headache Mabs Clinic PM
Thursday	Complex Headache Gepant Clinic AM, Headache Mabs clinic PM
Friday	Complex Headache Helpline – AM

In addition to the above clinics, we provide physiotherapy clinics for HA patients, and they fall on the following days:

Tuesday	AM & PM
Thursday	AM & PM
Friday	AM

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(b) Number of new and follow-up appointments for headache/migraine in the last 12 months (if recorded).

Month/Year	Successful Appointments	New Appointments	Review Appointments
Apr-25	141	26	115
May-25	109	8	101
Jun-25	126	<5	123
Jul-25	77	0	77
Aug-25	79	0	79
Sep-25	138	<5	134
Oct-25	130	20	110
Nov-25	144	14	130
Dec-25	143	8	135
Jan-26	171	17	154
Feb-26	143	9	134
Mar-26	160	<5	156

There was 1561 successful appointments over the past 12months, 113 new appointments and 1448 review appointments.
 These figures do not include cancelled or did not attend appointments.

(c) Current waiting time for first appointment (e.g., median or RTT measure used locally) for headache/migraine referrals.

New Urgent – 1-year, New Routine – 1 year 6 months

Further comment: Approximately one-third of all neurology referrals relate to headache disorders. However, due to significant resource constraints, the headache service is currently only able to see a very limited proportion of these patients, who require a specialist complex headache opinion. Additional staffing would be required to increase capacity, including a second consultant, a second headache nurse, and a pharmacist.

Use of <5 (less than five): We are unable to provide an exact figure - exempt from release under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act - Personal Information relating to a third party, as the small numbers involved could make patients personally identifiable. Disclosure would constitute a breach of the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation 2018.