

# **Neurology Recall**

## **Interim Activity Report for Active Caseload (Cohort 1)**

The Regional Neurology  
Coordination Group

20 February 2019

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## Purpose of this report

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This report summarises the outpatient, clinical investigation and clinical psychology activity to the end of 2018 associated with the review of patients who were identified as being under the active care of an individual consultant neurologist who was restricted from clinical practice in 2017.

It includes only activity associated with patients who were identified as being under active care by the consultant at the time of the restriction (referred to as Cohort 1 in documents relating to this issue). It excludes activity associated with patients who met the criteria for a later recall cohort or who did not meet the criteria for any recall cohort.

This report is concerned with activity, and does not include information about whether the diagnosis was secure, whether prescribing was appropriate, whether there was an appropriate management plan or any change in diagnosis. At the time of issue of this report, these assessments have not yet been completed or validated. This information will be available later in 2019.

## Description of the active caseload (Cohort 1)

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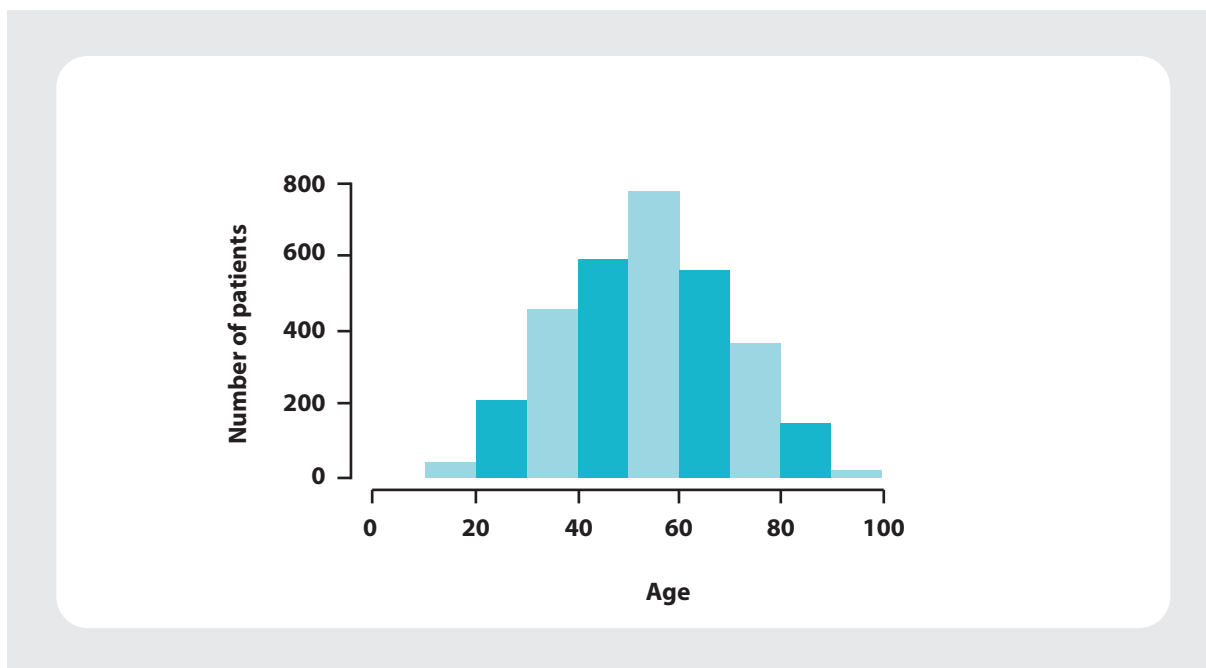
### Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

There were 3,168 Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSCT) patients identified as being under the active care of the consultant at the time the recall commenced on 1 May 2018.

#### *Age*

The mean age of the cohort of 3,168 BHSCT patients was 52.9 years (standard deviation 15.9 years) (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Histogram of Age for BHSCT patients



#### Gender

There were 2,006 females (63%) and 1,162 males (37%) in the full BHSCT cohort.

#### Geography

The greatest number of patients was from Belfast and neighbouring Local Commissioning Group (LCG) areas (Table 1).

Table 1. Breakdown of patients by LCG (Belfast Trust cohort)\*

LCG	Percent (%)
Belfast	36
Northern	26
South Eastern	23
Southern	9
Western	5
Outside NI	<1

\*Counts of patients are not shown due to the risk of disclosure associated with a small cell count in one cell.

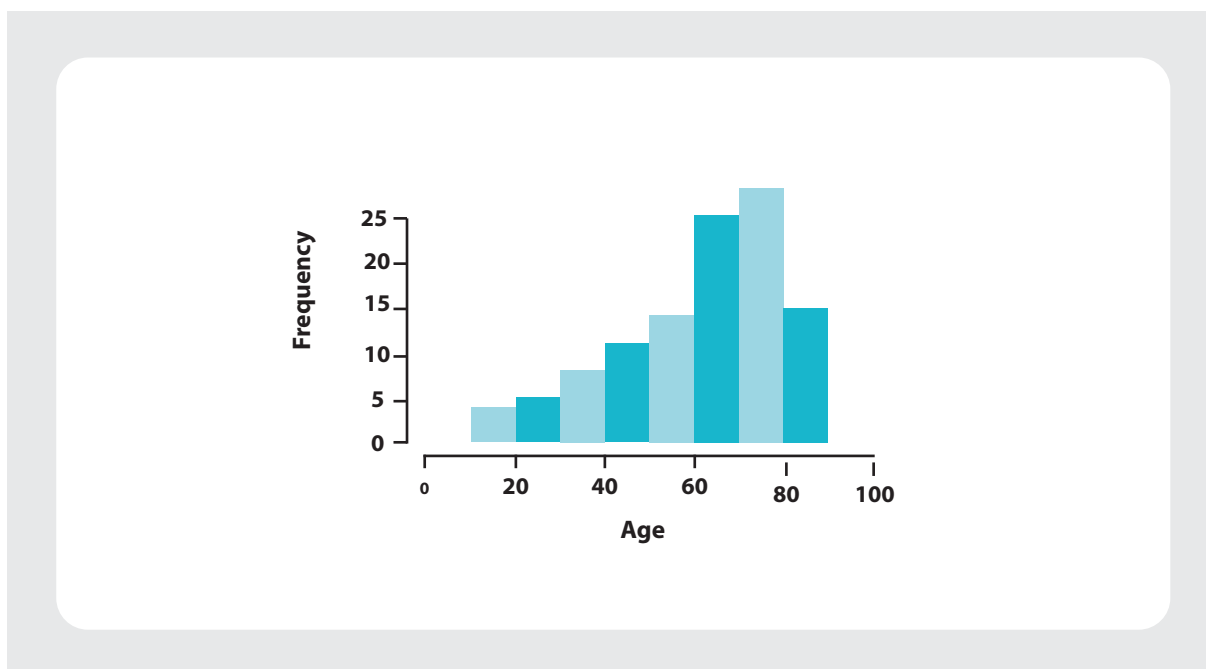
#### Ulster Independent Clinic

There were 110 patients identified as being under the active care of the consultant at the Ulster Independent Clinic (UIC) at the time of the recall.

#### Age

The age distribution of patients at UIC was older than the BHSCT patients (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Histogram of Age for UIC patients



#### Gender

There were 65 females (59%) and 45 males (41%) in the full UIC cohort.

#### Geography

UIC patients were more commonly from the South Eastern area and a smaller proportion was from the Belfast area, compared to the BHSCT cohort (Table 2).

Table 2. Breakdown of patients by LCG, Ulster Independent clinic

LCG	Percent (%)
Belfast	19
Northern	23
South Eastern	34
Southern	13
Western	6
Outside NI	6

#### Hillsborough Private Clinic

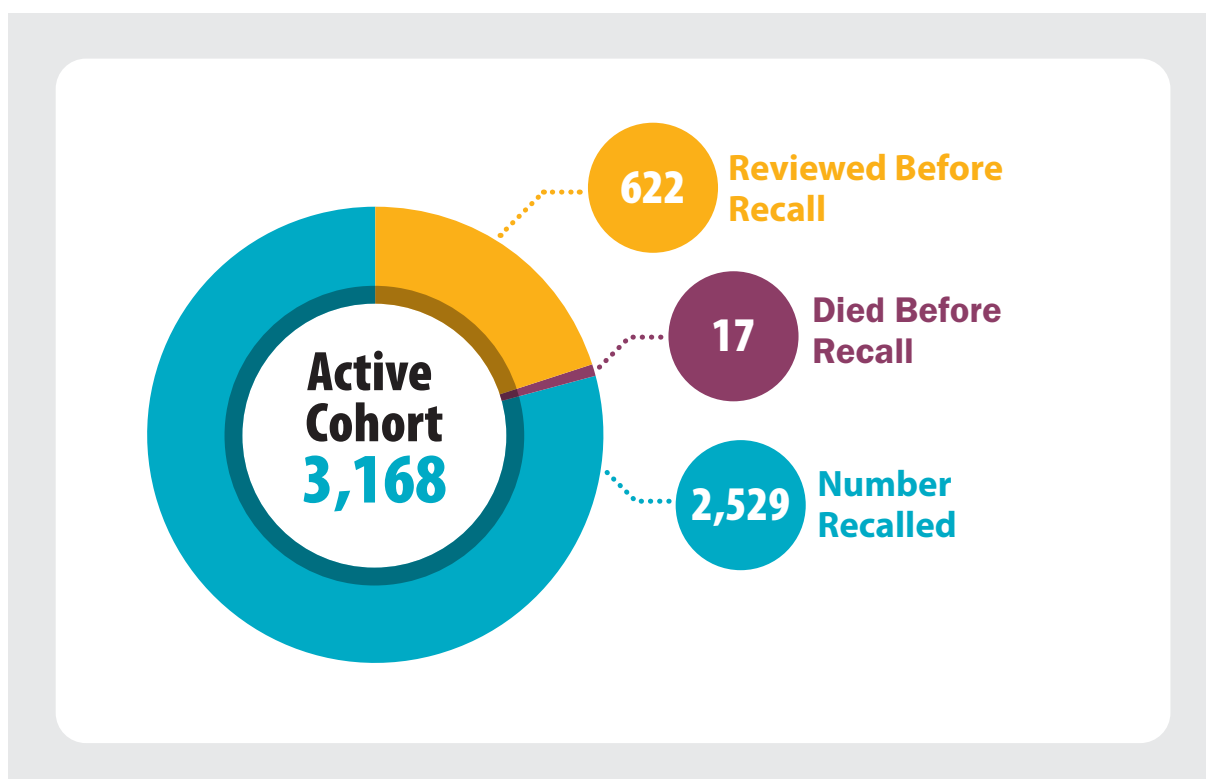
Hillsborough Private Clinic identified  $\leq 5$  patients who were under the active care of the consultant at the time of the recall. Due to the risk of disclosure of information about individuals, further information is not reported.

## Numbers of patients recalled by each organisation

### Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

At the commencement of the patient notification exercise, a cohort of 3,168 patients was identified (Figure 3). This group of patients is referred to as the Active Cohort – patients who had previously been seen by the consultant in question and were awaiting a review appointment at the time the consultant's practice was restricted. Of these, 622 had already been reviewed by another consultant neurologist and 17 were known to have died before the recall began. The remaining 2,529 patients were recalled (invited for review).

Figure 3. Recall status on 1 May 2018 for the full BHSC active cohort



### Other Health and Social Care Trusts

No patients from South Eastern or Northern Health and Social Care Trusts waiting list initiative clinics were identified as being under the active care of the consultant at the time of the recall and therefore none was invited for a review appointment as part of Cohort 1. No patients were identified as being under the care of the consultant by Southern or Western Health and Social Care Trusts.

### Ulster Independent Clinic

There were 110 patients identified as being under the active care of the consultant involved at the UIC and all were invited for review.

### Hillsborough Private Clinic

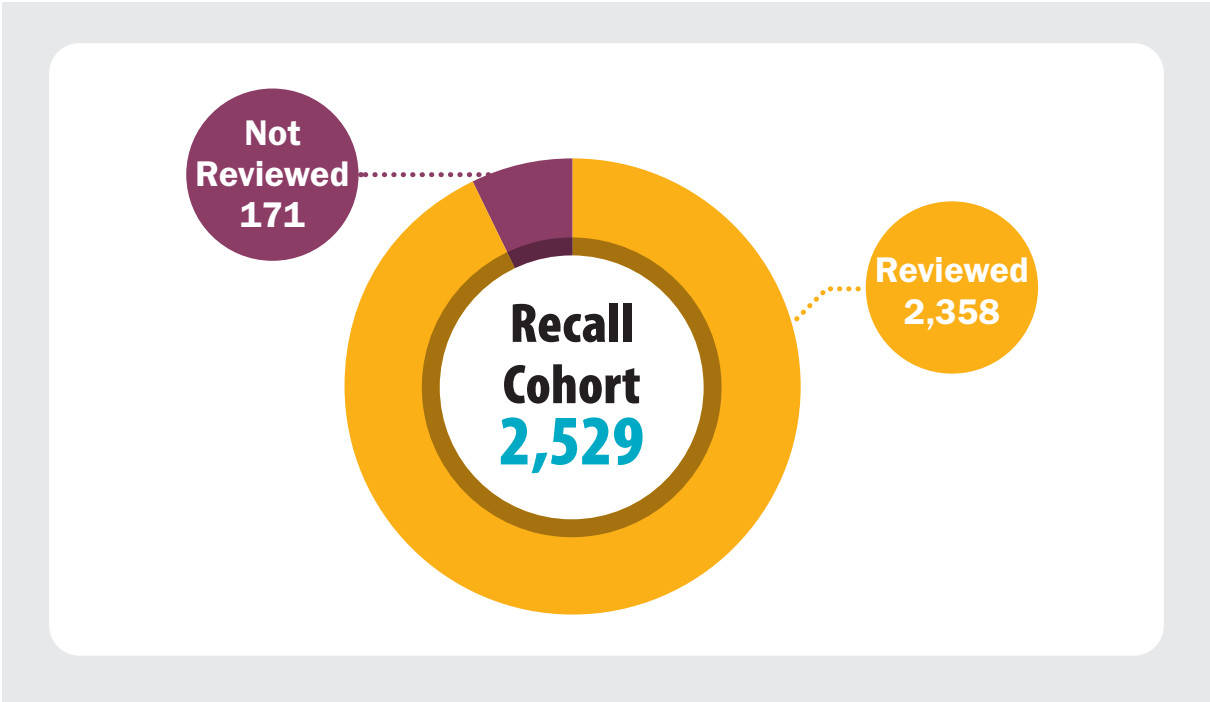
There was a very small number ( $\leq 5$ ) of patients identified as being under the active care of the consultant involved at the time of the recall and they were invited for review.

## Recall Activity

### Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

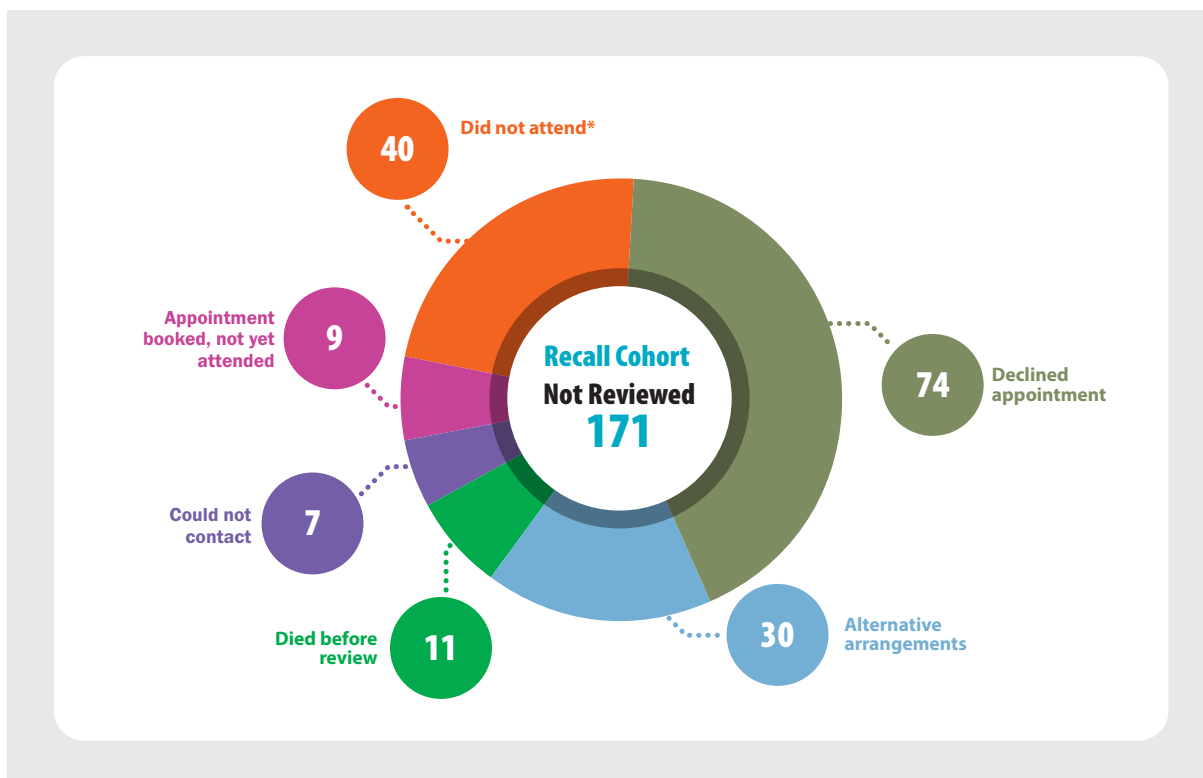
Each patient within the recall cohort (2,529) was assigned a dynamic 'status' for case management and reporting purposes, based on the most up-to-date information that was available about them (10 January 2019 in this report). The recall commenced on 1 May 2018.

Figure 4: Breakdown of the total number of patients that were invited to attend a review appointment



At the end of December 2018, 171 of the original 2,529 patients invited for review had not been reviewed for a variety of reasons. A breakdown of these is provided in figure 5.

**Figure 5: Breakdown of the number of patients that were invited to attend a review appointment, were not reviewed**

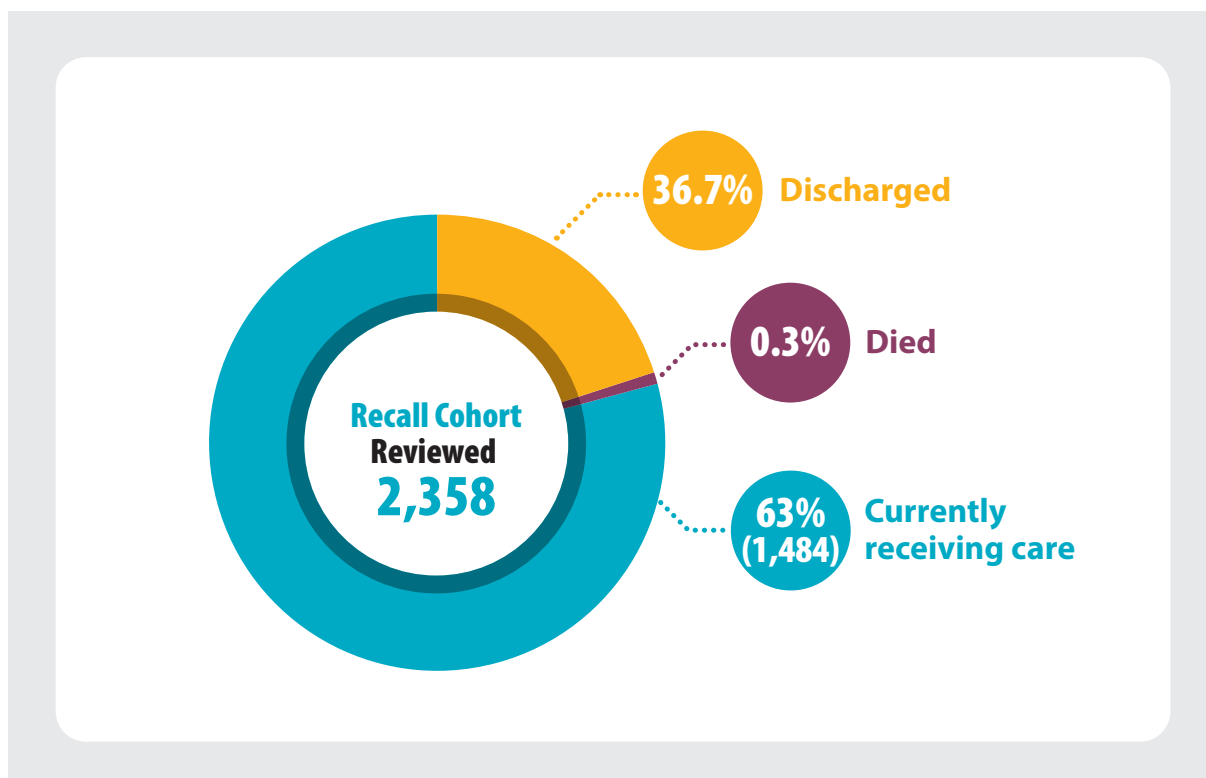


*\* includes those who did not attend twice and were discharged and those who did not attend once and have been offered another opportunity to attend*

The remaining 2,358 patients from this cohort have attended at least one review appointment (figure 6). Following review, 36.7% of the patients from the 2,358 were recorded as having been discharged, 0.3% were recorded as having died subsequent to their review without being discharged, and 63% (1,484) were either still in the process of being assessed or had entered routine care (some numbers have been converted into percentages to prevent disclosure of information about individuals). Of the 1,484 patients still undergoing care, 598 had their care transferred to the assessing consultant, 62 were referred to another consultant and 517 had been listed for follow-up (where, for example, assessment had been undertaken by an independent sector neurologist who could not take over the longer-term care of the patient). The remaining 307 patients were either still being followed up as part of the recall process, had other requirements that were being addressed, or information was not yet available about their status.



Figure 6: Categorisation of the of the recall cohort of BHSCT patients on 31 December 2018



The 2,358 in the recall cohort were recorded as having attended 3,551 appointments by 31 December 2018, 2,400 of which were 'primary' reviews (including 42 people who attended two such primary reviews by different specialists) and 1,151 of which were follow-up review appointments.

Half of all of the patients reviewed had at least one clinical investigation requested. There were 1,806 investigations recorded as having been requested on 1,169 patients by the end of 31 December 2018. Of those investigations, 55 were not conducted because patients declined or did not attend the investigation appointment and 1,605 (92% of the remainder) were recorded as complete by 31 December 2018 (table 3).

Table 3: Investigations requested and completed on HSC patients by end December 2018

Test Type	Requested (Excluding declined or DNA)	Completed Number	Completed Percent
Neurological investigations	1,575	1,447	92
Cardiac investigations	102	93	91
Vascular investigations	18	17	94
Other investigations	56	48	86
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,751</b>	<b>1,605</b>	<b>92</b>

A more detailed breakdown by test name is shown in **Appendix 1**. The total number of tests requested was 1,806, but 55 patients declined or did not attend. All of these investigations were additional to the usual testing arrangements and did not delay other patients awaiting test appointments. Some patients have had more than one investigation.

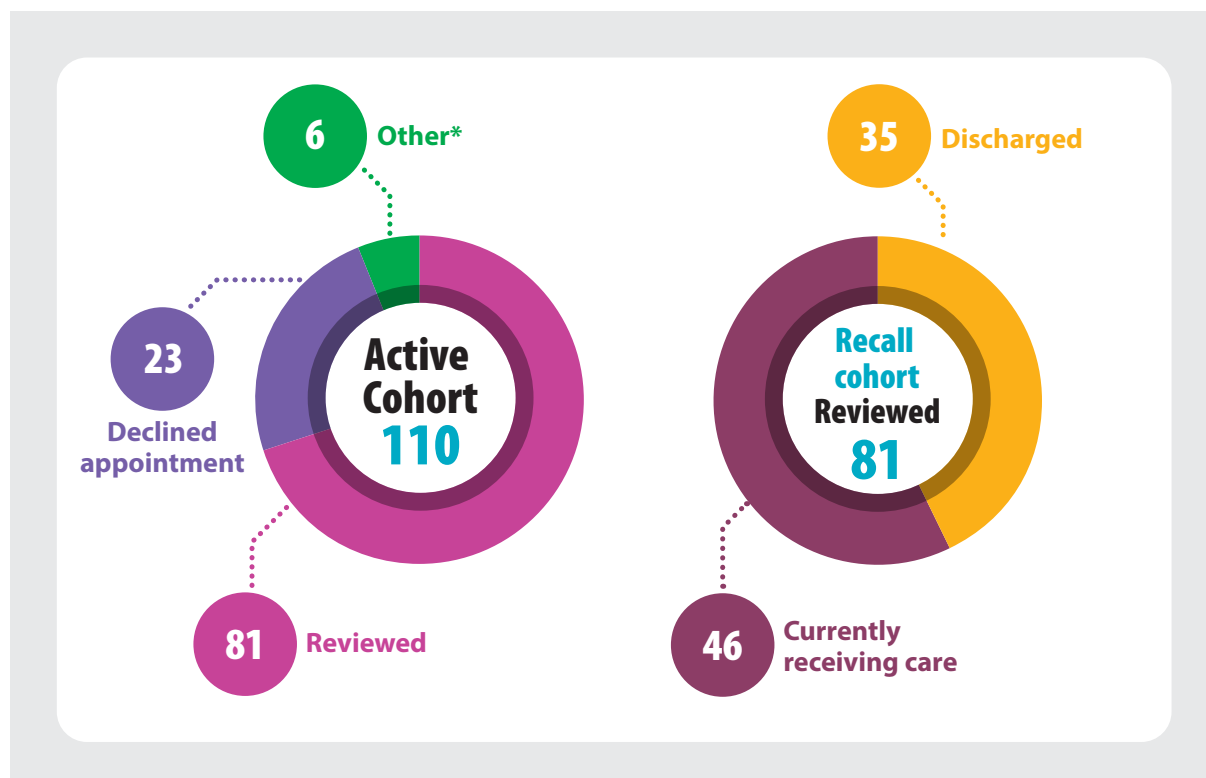
### Psychology Referrals

By the end of December there had been 194 psychology referrals, with 194 of these patients accepting the referral. Of the 194, 172 had a consultation, 17 patients had an appointment booked and appointments were being arranged for the remaining 5 patients.

### Ulster Independent Clinic

Of the 110 patients recalled by the Ulster Independent Clinic, 81 were reviewed and 29 were not reviewed for a variety of reasons described in figure 6. Of the 81 who were reviewed 43% (35) had been discharged by the end of December 2018.

Figure 7. Breakdown of the active cohort and categorisation of the recall cohort of UIC patients on 31 December 2018



\*Other category includes: patients with an alternative follow-up, patients who could not attend, patients deceased after the recall commenced and patients still to be reviewed – individual counts of patients are not shown due to the risk of disclosure associated with a small cell count in one cell.

Thirty percent of the patients reviewed had at least one clinical investigation requested. There were 28 investigations recorded as having been requested on 24 patients by the end of 31 December 2018.

A breakdown of the investigations is shown in table 4.

Table 4: Investigations requested and completed on UIC patients by end December 2018

Test Type	Test Name	Requested (Excluding declined or DNA)	Completed Percent
Neurological	MRI	17	88
	Other neurological*	11	91
<b>Total</b>		<b>28</b>	<b>89</b>

\* EEG, NCS, DAT, EMG

MRI: Magnetic Resonance Imaging; EEG: Electroencephalography; DAT: DaTscan; NCS: Nerve Conduction Studies; EMG: Electromyography.

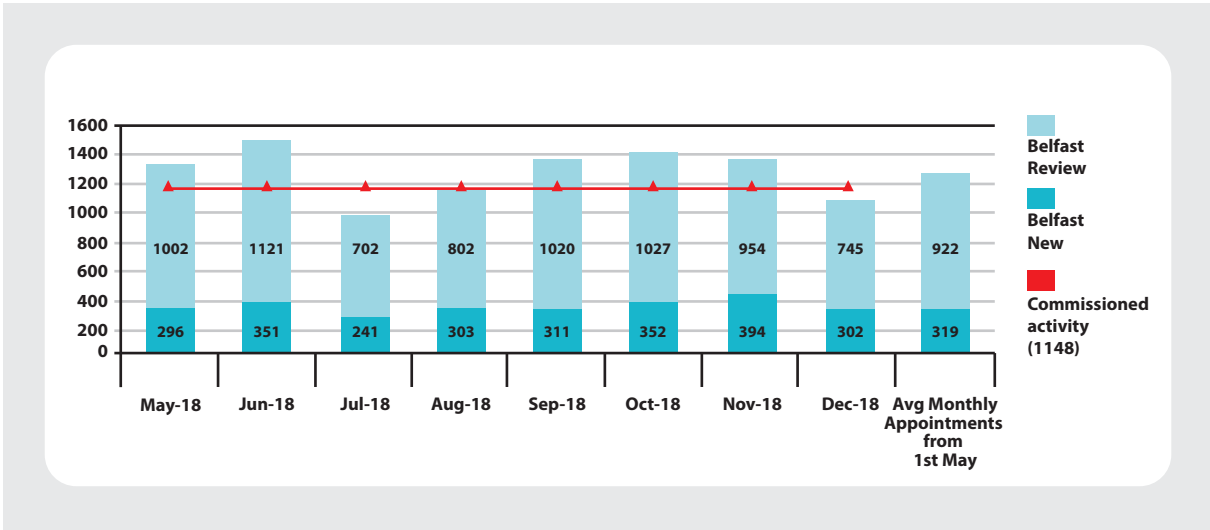
**Hillsborough Private Clinic**

There was a very small number ( $\leq 5$ ) of patients identified as being under the active care of the consultant involved at the time of the recall. Due to the risk of identifying individual patients, no further detail are supplied in this report.

**Summary of core neurology activity in BHSCT**

The table below summarises the level of core neurology activity undertaken in Belfast Trust. The red line represents the annual neurology clinic activity Belfast Trust is commissioned to provide, split evenly over 12 months. This indicated that the Trust should be delivering on average 1,148 outpatient appointments per month (new and review appointments).

**Figure 8. Core neurology activity by month shown against the contracted volume of activity (1,148) – red line (excludes recall clinic activity).**



Between the 1 April 2018 and 31 December 2018, the average monthly number of attendances was 1,241. This indicates that the recall has not impacted on core neurology activity delivered by the Belfast Trust.

## Appendix 1. Investigations Requested and Completed by 31 December 2018: HSC

Number of specific investigations requested and completed, BHSCT

Test Type	Test Name	Requested (Excluding declined or DNA)	Completed Percent
<b>Neurological</b>	MRI	851	98
	EEG	320	89
	NCS	130	92
	EMG	52	94
	VEEG	54	22
	VER	54	98
	LP	39	59
	DAT	32	97
	CT	29	97
	SER	14	93
<b>Neurological Sub-total</b>		<b>1575</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>Cardiac</b>	ECHO	27	93
	ECG	34	88
	Ambulatory ECG	22	91
	Ambulatory BP monitoring	19	95
<b>Cardiac Sub-total</b>		<b>102</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>Vascular</b>	Carotid	10	100
	US	8	88
<b>Vascular Sub-total</b>		<b>18</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>Other</b>	X-Ray	6	100
	Other	50	84
<b>Other Sub-total</b>		<b>56</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1751</b>	<b>92</b>

*DNA: Did Not Attend; MRI: Magnetic Resonance Imaging; EEG: Electroencephalography; NCS: Nerve Conduction Studies; EMG: Electromyography; VEEG: Video Electroencephalography; VER: Visual Evoked Response; LP: Lumbar Puncture; DAT: DaTscan; CT: Computerised Tomography; SER: Somatosensory Evoked Response; ECHO: Echocardiography; ECG: Electrocardiography; Ambulatory BP monitoring: Ambulatory Blood Pressure monitoring; Carotid: Carotid Doppler Ultrasound Scan; US: Ultrasound scan; MIBG: iodine-131-metaiodobenzylguanidine scan.*

*Some patients have had more than one investigation.*