

Trust Headquarters  
Russell's Hall Hospital  
Dudley  
West Midlands  
DY1 2HQ

**Ref:** FOI-012025-0001385

**Date:** 26.2.25

**Address / Email:**

Dear

**Request Under Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Thank you for requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please see response below.

1. How many episodes of care were coded by your organisation in 2024 (both inpatient and outpatient)? - 180,038 admitted and 99,832 outpatient episodes were coded
2. How many episodes of care went uncoded in 2024? - 100 admitted episodes were uncoded
3. How much income do you estimate was not generated due to uncoded activity? - No income was lost because the uncoded episodes were for services where tariff rules do not apply
4. Can you provide the split of coding volumes between specialities (e.g., oncology, cardiology)? – see table below

Sum of CodedEpisodes 2024	Type		
Specialty	Admitted	Outpatient	Grand Total
100: General Surgery	10,755	119	10,874
101: Urology	3,485	7,664	11,149
103: Breast Surgery	527	868	1,395
104: Colorectal Surgery	235	19	254
106: Upper Gastrointestinal Surgery	2		2
107: Vascular Surgery	1,931	346	2,277
110: T&O	7,372	5,679	13,051
120: ENT	1,361	7,069	8,430
130: Ophthalmology	9,046	13,199	22,245
140: Oral Surgery	1,608	10	1,618
141: Restorative Dent	2		2
143: Orthodontics		1,863	1,863
144: Maxillo-Facial Surgery		3	3
160: Plastic Surgery	3,736	4,511	8,247
171: Paeds Surgery	153	1	154
180: A&E	567	1,027	1,594

190: Anaesthetics	11	131	142
191: Pain Mgmt	1,816	2,199	4,015
214: Paed Trauma and Orthopaedics	19	824	843
215: Paed ENT	8		8
219: Paed Plastic Surgery	124		124
251: Paed Gastroenterology	3	6	9
252: Paed Endocrinology	1	1	2
255: Paed Clin Immu	2	14	16
257: Paed Dermatology	1	10	11
258: Paed Respiratory Medicin	3	324	327
263: Paediatric Diabetic	4	42	46
290: Community Paeds		387	387
291: Paed Neuro-Disability	3	48	51
300: G Medicine	43,729	20	43,749
301: Gastroenterology	13,378	125	13,503
302: Endocrinology	1,426		1,426
303: Clin Haem	4,317	2,103	6,420
307: Diabetic Medicine	649	2,377	3,026
311: Clin Gen		1	1
313: Clin Immu & Allergy	992		992
314: Rehab	2,039	5	2,044
315: Palliative Med		3	3
318: Intermediate Care	40		40
320: Cardiology	4,862	272	5,134
321: Paed Cardiology		789	789
324: Anticoagulant Service		8	8
328: Stroke Medicine	1,418		1,418
329: Transient Ischaemic Attack	1		1
330: Dermatology	744	9,179	9,923
340: Respiratory Med	5,673	535	6,208
341: RESPIRATORY PHYSIOLOGY	1	6,274	6,275
361: Nephrology	8,545	3,895	12,440
370: Medical Oncology	3,341	9	3,350
400: Neurology	193	4	197
410: Rheumatology	1,357	2,431	3,788
420: Paediatrics	3,003	676	3,679
421: Paed Neuro	14	3	17
422: Neonates	45	159	204
424: Well Babies	4,098		4,098
430: Geriatric Med	4,557	290	4,847
501: Obstetrics	15,751	5,144	20,895
502: Gynaecology	3,832	8,351	12,183
560: Midwife Epis	4,787	710	5,497
651: Occupational Therapy		2	2
655: Orthoptics	1	7,411	7,412
662: Optometry		30	30
663: Podiatric Surgery	118		118
800: Clin Oncology	8,029	5	8,034

811: Interventional Radiology	317		317
822: Chem Pathology	6		6
840: AUDIOLOGY		2,648	2,648
MPH: Medical Photography		9	9
Grand Total	180,038	99,832	279,870

5. Please explain how your organisation manages coding activity. - The Coding Team sits under Finance. The team are hybrid with both office and remote working staff. The team has a manager and 2 Team Leaders. The team code from an EPR system for APC and Day cases and paper proformas for outpatient coding.
6. Are outpatient and inpatient coding managed by the same team or separate teams? - Managed by the same team
7. How many Whole-Time Equivalent (WTE) staff complete clinical coding for the Trust? - 19.5WTE
8. What proportion of the total WTE staff for clinical coding is substantive (permanent), bank staff, and agency staff? - 18.5 Substantive 1WTE Bank.
9. Does the Trust currently have any automated solutions in place for clinical coding? - In house automation
10. If yes, please explain the automated solution that is in place. - Repeat attenders, Dialysis, Acute Asthma, Ophthalmology injections.
11. If not, is the Trust planning to implement automated coding solutions in the next 12–24 months? Or would it be interested in exploring potential solutions? - Interested in exploring potential solutions
12. Is the Trust currently on Payment by Results (PbR), block contracts, or another financial model? - The Trust is currently on Elective Recovery Fund payment by results rules for daycase, elective, procedures and outpatient news. The Trust is on block contracts for everything else such as emergency admissions, community contacts and follow up outpatients not having a procedure.
13. What clinical coding systems or software does the Trust currently use to capture clinical codes? - Medicode
14. Does your Trust's Electronic Patient Record (EPR) system integrate clinical coding, or do clinical departments use standalone systems? - EPR doesn't integrate Coding. Although the trust has an EPR some specialties have stand alone systems.
15. What are the main challenges the Trust faces in clinical coding (e.g., timeliness, accuracy, staffing shortages)? - Timeliness is the biggest challenge. Increasing documentation within EPR record.
16. Could you provide the contact details (name, job title, and email) of the person who is ultimately responsible for overseeing clinical coding within the Trust? Paul Allen, Clinical Coding Manager. [Paul.allen1@nhs.net](mailto:Paul.allen1@nhs.net)

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have the right to appeal in line with guidance from the Information Commissioner. In the first instance you may contact the Information Governance Manager of the Trust.

Information Governance Manager

FOI/REF FOI-

Trust Headquarters  
Russell's Hall Hospital  
Dudley  
West Midlands  
DY1 2HQ  
Email: [dgft.dpo@nhs.net](mailto:dgft.dpo@nhs.net)

Should you disagree with the contents of our response to your appeal, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioners Office at.

Information Commissioners Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF  
Tel: 0303 123 1113  
[www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

If you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Team**  
**The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust**