

<b>File reference</b>	W17FOI145
<b>Key words</b>	Hearing AQP
<b>Date of release</b>	25/04/2017
<b>Attachments</b>	No

## Freedom of Information Act Disclosure log - Reply Extract

### FoI Request: Adult Hearing Care

This relates to **all of your adult** (aged 18 and older) **hearing services**.

**Please answer questions for all three local – New Devon, South Devon and Torbay, and Kernow – CCGs.** For example if the answer is the same for all three CCGs, state “same for all CCGs”. If different CCGs have different arrangements please explain how these vary.

- 1. Do your local CCGs (listed above) still commission an AQP adult hearing service? (if no go to question 4, if yes go to question 2).**

Yes

- 2. Please enclose the AQP adult service specification here for each CCG (if all CCGs use the same service specification include a single version).**

The AQP Specification is referenced in the ENT Specification:

For routine Audiology patients on the Any Qualified Provider (AQP) pathway, PHNT will accept referrals that meet the criteria specified in the service specification as follows:

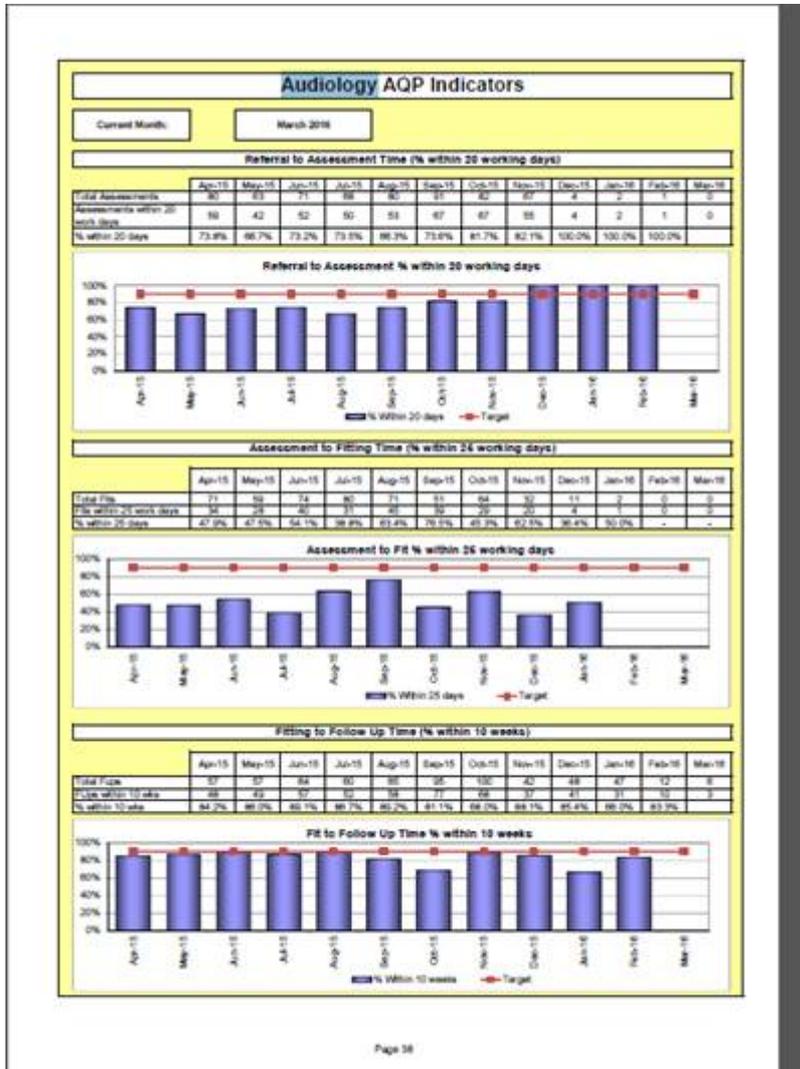
- Patient is aged 55 or above
- Patient has not had a previous hearing aid
- Patient’s ears are clear of wax
- Both ear drums are seen and healthy looking
- Hearing loss is equal in both ears
- No tinnitus or balance problems
- No sudden deafness
- No conductive element.

The service specification is being reviewed currently. Please contact the CCG for this.

- 3. Please provide a summary of the 2015-2016 KPIs submitted to each CCG (listed above) as part of your AQP contract. (If you did not**

submit, or not meet, contract KPIs please explain why). (Please skip question 4)

We produce contract performance data monthly that is reported to all Commissioners in our performance databook. Please see below the extract of this for March 2016.



- Please explain the date (month/year) any of the CCGs (listed above) stopped using AQP to commission adult hearing services from you and if known please explain why.

N/A

- Please list all other ways (i.e. non-AQP) in which your CCGs (listed above) pay for and procure adult hearing services? for example block contract, non- mandated tariffs, cost-per-case etc.

Local Tariff based on the Trusts reference costs (Please note in 16/17 this has formed part of the overall block contract with NEW Devon CCG)

6. **Please provide the adult hearing service specification for each of the payment systems/contracts listed in response to number 5. (If you do not have service specifications for the services, please state “do not have service specification for these patient groups”)**

We do not have a specific audiology specification it is covered under the ENT service specification.

7. **What is your average bilateral hearing aid fitting rate (%) for all adults?**

80% adults fitted with more than one hearing aid according to our case note sample audit.

8. **Looking at all the adult hearing aids you have fitted in each financial year since 2013, please state what proportion were fitted and therefore billed against the AQP Contract?\***

Financial Year	AQP_percent
2013/14	30.75%
2014/15	37.55%
2015/16	36.00%

9. **In 2014/15 reference cost coding, the Trust reported 63% of its adult hearing aids as “Hearing Aid, Adult, Other Contract”, and 37% “Hearing Aid, Adult, Any Qualified Provider Contract”. Given local exclusion/inclusion criteria these figures are not what we would expect based on local population needs. Did the Trust make an error here, or did the Trust have an alternative contract(s) which reimbursed the cost of “Hearing Aid, Adult, Other Contract”?**

The AQP criteria are laid out in the service specification, and these criteria are applied for all patient pathways.

**\*please note, given the Trust would bill CCGs for AQP activity, bill/code other contract activity and report data as reference cost, the time required to provide this estimate has been considered before making this request.**