

Ref. No: 2437
Date: 18/03/26
Subject: Cardiac MRI Referral Pathways

REQUEST & RESPONSE

Thank you for your response dated Monday 16th March 2026, in which you confirmed that Mersey and West Lancashire (MWL) Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust does not perform Cardiac MRI scans 'in-house'. To further understand the clinical pathways for patients requiring this diagnostic tool, I am requesting the following information under the Freedom of Information Act:

1. **External Referrals:** The total number of patients referred by the MWL Cardiology Department to external providers (e.g., Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital) specifically for **Cardiac MRI (CMR)** scans between 1st January 2021 and December 2022.

Legacy STHK referred in total: 436 patients during that period.

Unfortunately, S&O do not keep records of patients being referred for this test, if the information is required, the Radiology team at LHCH should be able to provide this information.

2. **Clinical Indications:** Of those referred for external Cardiac MRI, how many had a primary clinical indication of:
 - o a) **Syncope of Unknown Origin** (ICD-10 code R55)
 - o b) **Suspected Myocarditis** (ICD-10 code I40)

The majority of referrals from both legacy sites are from inpatient stays and they are referred for Cardiac MRI due to suspected myocarditis – very few will be referred for syncope.

3. **Service Level Agreements (SLA):** Does the Trust have a formal written pathway or SLA with a tertiary centre for the provision of Cardiac MRI for patients presenting at Whiston or St Helens hospitals with clear coronary arteries but unexplained cardiac events?

There is an agreement with the Tertiary Centre to take Cardiac MRI patients from our sites, as we do not deliver the service on site.

4. **Referral Criteria:** Please provide a copy of the Trust's 2021 internal clinical guideline or protocol for the investigation of sudden cardiac

collapse (syncope) in patients where initial angiography shows no significant coronary artery disease.

We do not have any internal Guidelines or protocol as we do not have a syncope service. The LHCH referral form sets out the criteria for referral and only if the patient meets that criteria are they accepted.