



Freedom of Information Request Aquatic Physiotherapy (Hydrotherapy) Provision in the United Kingdom

ACCESS TO AQUATIC PHYSIOTHERAPY

1. On behalf of which NHS Trust / Health Board are you responding?

Doncaster & Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals

2. Does your Trust / Health Board have access to a hydrotherapy pool?

Not anymore

The pool was closed at the onset of the recent pandemic. During the pandemic the Trust's Estates Department commissioned a report into the condition of the pool which had been closed for a period prior to the pandemic for remedial works and the installation of a new pump. The pool has remained closed as the report demonstrated a need for extensive refurbishment to bring it up to current industry standards. An options paper has been prepared and is under consideration.

3. If you do have access are your hydrotherapy pools onsite or offsite? (Tick all that apply)

Onsite

The pool, which is not currently being used, is located at the Doncaster Royal Infirmary.

4. Were all your hydrotherapy pools open prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Yes

The Trust has one pool.

5. If you do not have access to hydrotherapy pools, please tick all answers that apply to answer why that is.

- Closed Due to COVID-19
- Lack of funds
- Insufficient space
- No local pool available
- Not enough adequately trained staff
- Lack of appropriate local patient population
- Other (please specify)

Non-compliance with industry standards.

6. How many hydrotherapy pools exist on your NHS Trust / Board's estate? Include those closed prior to COVID-19.

One

7. What are your closed hydrotherapy pools / departments now used for?

The pool is not being used at present.

REOPENING OF HYDROTHERAPY POOLS

8. Will all your hydrotherapy pools be re-opening?

- Yes, they are already open
- Yes, there are plans to reopen
- No
- Not sure / don't know

An options paper is under consideration.

9. When are your hydrotherapy pools scheduled to re-open?

- Within 3 months
- Within 6 months
- Within 9 months
- Within 12 months
- Other (please specify)

Not known.

10. If your hydrotherapy pools are not scheduled to reopen, why is that? *(Please select all that apply)*

- Changing area capacity
- Staffing to clean
- Access to pool
- Staff still redeployed
- Other (please specify)

Non-compliance with industry standards.

11. If your hydrotherapy pools are not scheduled to reopen, has a full public consultation taken place?

- No

12. If your hydrotherapy pools are not scheduled to reopen has an equality impact assessment taken place?

- No

OPERATING HYDROTHERAPY POOLS

13. If your hydrotherapy pools are open or scheduled to open is / will your aquatic physiotherapy (hydrotherapy) service capacity be reduced as a result of COVID-19?

Not applicable.

14. What capacity are / will you be able to offer compared to pre pandemic? Please enter a percentage (%).

A re-opened pool would be able to provide 100% of pre-pandemic capacity.

15. Is / will your service be provided on a 1:1 basis?

- No we can take more than 1 patient in the pool at a time.

16. Is / will your service be provided with the therapist instructing from poolside

- No our therapist is able to treat from within the pool
We could have a therapist in the pool but would reduce capacity by one patient

17. Approximately how many sessions did you have access to your hydrotherapy pools on a weekly basis pre pandemic? (Where one session = one morning, afternoon or evening clinic)

Approximately 10 sessions per week.

18. Approximately how many sessions do you currently have access to your hydrotherapy pools on a weekly basis?

The pool is not currently being used.

19. Which services use your hydrotherapy pools?

- Rheumatology
 MSK
 Orthopaedics
 Neurology
 Paediatrics
 Other (please specify) National Ankylosing Spondylosis Society (two sessions every other week)

The above services used the pool previously and would be expected to resume using the pool when reopened.

20. Are your hydrotherapy pools used by inpatient or outpatient services?

- Outpatients only

21. Prior to the pandemic did you provide out of hours access to your hydrotherapy pools to patient groups or private groups? e.g. NASS, Private Clinics (Please provide a list)

- Yes

NASS every other week

22. Have these sessions restarted? (Please provide a list of those which have restarted)

No

The pool is not currently being used.

23. Do you currently audit the use and effectiveness of aquatic physiotherapy (hydrotherapy)?

Yes

24. Please list outcome measures or tools used to audit the use and effectiveness of aquatic physiotherapy (hydrotherapy)?

Ad-hoc audit with MSK-HQ

25. If you are happy to be contacted for further information to support aquatic physiotherapy (hydrotherapy) services remobilise please provide an email address below.

Yes please
catherine.wilson15@nhs.net

Thank you