

## Allergy census 2021

Thank you for taking time to participate in the allergy and immunology census 2021. This survey is being carried out collaboratively between the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) and the Wellcome Trust. This survey should take no more than 10-15 minutes of your time.

By completing and submitting the information for your service, you will be participating in a national collection of data that can be used to build a picture of allergy and immunology services across the UK.

These data will be collated, and a report generated, which we will share with you. We will also look to publish the results and create a narrative that can be used to highlight the development of both allergy and immunology provision in the UK.

Services completing this census should not provide any patient-identifiable data.

Contact details of the investigators and for the RCP are provided at the end of the survey.

1. Please enter your email address, this will be for the purpose of sharing final data **(optional)**

Abubaker.elbadri@sthk.nhs.uk

2. Please enter the name of your hospital (main site where service is delivered) and Trust.

St Helens and Knowsley NHS Trust Teaching Hospitals

Paediatric department

3. Does your Trust provide allergy services in more than one hospital site?

Yes  No

If Yes, please specify which hospitals.

Whiston, St Helens, Newton

4. Do you give permission for your survey data to be collated and presented anonymously?

Yes  No

Staffing

5. Consultants

Number of consultants providing allergy services at your centre..... 7 general paediatricians and one lead for allergy – all see allergy patients.

Number of unfilled consultant posts for allergy.....0

Number of consultants providing allergy services retiring in the next 5 years .....1 (the lead for allergy).

7 general consultant paediatricians see some allergy patients in their clinics, but there is only one lead for allergy and complex, difficult, or with anaphylaxis are seen by the lead for allergy in the specialist allergy OPD with the nurse specialists.

6. Do consultants from any other specialty provide clinical sessions for your allergy service?

Yes  No

They see allergy patients in their clinics, but do not provide specialist clinic for allergy except the lead for allergy.

If Yes, please could you specify the number of consultants and list their specialty in the list provided with Q7.

7. Consultants personal info exempt sc 40

please complete the below table for all consultants working in the allergy service based on sessions in job plans. If the job plan does not specify distinction between direct clinical care (DCC) activities, please estimate the split. Please report contracted (ie job planned) activity.

	Allergy DCC	Supporting professional activity (SPA)	Other specialty DCC	Allergy CPD in the last 2 years	Other contracted activity (eg university, college, management etc)	Formal allergy training *Please see below
Consultant 1						
Consultant 2						
Consultant 3						
Consultant 4						
Consultant 5						
Consultant 6						
Consultant 7						
Consultant 8						
Consultant 9						
Consultant 10						

\*Formal allergy training could be one of the following:

- 1. Certificate course in allergy; 2. Higher education degree (Diploma) 3. Higher education degree (Masters); 4. Specialist Training 5. Other (please give details) 6. No formal training

If you would like to add additional information, please do so here.

**8. Nursing staff:**

Number of unfilled allergy nursing posts ....0.

9. Please complete the below for all nurses working in the allergy service based on contracted sessions. Personal info exempt sec 40

	Band	WTE for allergy service	WTE for other services	Other contracted activity (eg management, teaching etc)	Allergy CPD in the last 2 years	Formal allergy training *please see below
Nurse 1						
Nurse 2						
Nurse 3						
Nurse 4						
Nurse 5						
Nurse 6						
Nurse 7						
Nurse 8						
Nurse 9						
Nurse 10						

\*Formal allergy training could be one of the following:

1. Certificate course in allergy;
2. Higher education degree (Diploma)
3. Higher education degree (Masters);
4. Other (please give details)
5. No formal training

If you would like to add additional information, please do so here.

10. Do you offer a nurse-led outpatient clinic for allergy (not including day case)?

- Yes  No

11. If Yes, please state the frequency as WTE per week? [Approx. 0.2 WTE per week](#)

**12. Allergy trainees**

Do you have allergy specialty trainees?

- Yes  No

13. If Yes...

How many allergy trainees do you have in post? ....0.

How many allergy trainee post/s at your service are unfilled at present? .....0

How many allergy trainees are expected to complete training in the next 12 months? .....0

**14. Allergy – other staffing**

Does the service have dedicated pharmacy support for allergy?

Yes  No

15. If Yes... exempt personal info

	Band	WTE	Formal allergy training
Pharmacist			
Technician			

If they have received allergy CME training in the last 2 years, please specify here.

**16. Allergy – other staffing**

Does the service have dedicated psychology support for allergy?

Yes  No

17. If Yes...

	Band	WTE	Formal allergy training
Psychologist			
Technician			

If they have received allergy CME training in the last 2 years, please specify here.

18. If No, is there an effective referral pathway for patients with allergies requiring psychological support?

Yes  No We refer to the generic CAMHs services, if non-specific, and to the regional allergy clinic (part of our network) if specific psychological concerns.

**19. Allergy – other staffing**

Does the service have dedicated respiratory physiotherapy support for allergy?

Yes  No (there is respiratory physiotherapy service for respiratory patients such as CF).

20. If Yes...

	Band	WTE	Formal allergy training
Respiratory physiotherapist			

If they have received allergy CME training in the last 2 years, please specify here.

21. If No, is there an effective referral pathway for patients with allergies requiring respiratory physiotherapy?

Yes  No Patients with respiratory diseases, whether allergic or otherwise such as CF, are seen by the respiratory team who have their pathways for referral to physiotherapy. All other allergy patients such food allergies, do not require physiotherapy.

**22. Allergy – other staffing**

Does the service have dedicated dietician support for allergy?

Yes  No

**23. If Yes...**

	Band	WTE	Formal allergy training
Dietician 1			
Dietician 2			
Dietician 3			

If they have received allergy CME training in the last 2 years, please specify here.

**24.** Please complete the below table for all medical secretaries in the allergy service based on sessions in job plans.

	Band	WTE
Medical secretary 1		
Medical secretary 2		
Medical secretary 3		
Medical secretary 4		
Medical secretary 5		

**Patient activity**

**25.** How many general allergy clinics do you offer per week (as of the month of March 2021)..

Total number of clinics ..... 1 nurse lead per week, 1 consultant per fortnight

Face-to-face clinics per week ..... all face to face

Remote\* clinics per week (\*telephone/video)..... only during the height of pandemic

Comments some ad hoc follow up telephone calls to allergy patients

**26.** How many specialist allergy clinics (eg: omalizumab for chronic urticaria, immunotherapy, drug allergy etc) do you offer per week as of the month of March 2021?

Total number of clinics .....

Face-to-face clinics per week .....

Remote\* clinics per week (\*telephone/video) .....

Comments None

27. Are your allergy services listed on choose and book?

Yes  No?

28. What are the **current approx.** waiting times for the following...

(choose N/A if it doesn't apply):

New patient (consultant) referrals .....

Follow-up patients (consultant) .....

New patients (non-consultant) .....

Follow-up patients (non-consultant) .....

Challenge clinics .....

Desensitisation (allergen-specific immunotherapy) clinics ..... N/A

Omaliuzumab (for chronic spontaneous urticaria) clinics ..... N/A

We do not have this data, we create additional ad hoc nurse lead clinics to accommodate patients and the consultant lead offer them appointments in his general paediatric or gastroenterology but the overall waiting times vary between 4-12 weeks. Urgent patients will be seen within 2 weeks.

29. Do you offer the following services at your centre. (please select from options below)

Desensitisation for insect venom allergy ..... YES/ NO/ REFER TO NEAREST SPECIALIST CENTRE

Desensitisation for grass/ tree pollen/ house dust mite (subcutaneous) allergy ..... YES/ NO/ REFER TO NEAREST SPECIALIST CENTRE

Desensitisation for grass/ tree pollen/ house dust mite (sublingual) allergy ..... YES/ NO/ REFER TO NEAREST SPECIALIST CENTRE

Omaliuzumab for severe chronic spontaneous urticaria ..... YES/ NO/ REFER TO NEAREST SPECIALIST CENTRE

Open Food Challenges ..... YES/ NO/ REFER TO NEAREST SPECIALIST CENTRE

Drug allergy testing including challenges (excluding general anaesthesia) ..... YES/ NO/ REFER TO NEAREST SPECIALIST CENTRE

General anaesthetic allergy testing ..... YES/ NO/ REFER TO NEAREST SPECIALIST CENTRE

Single blind food challenges ..... YES/ NO/ REFER TO NEAREST SPECIALIST CENTRE

Double blind placebo-controlled challenges ..... YES/ NO/ REFER TO NEAREST SPECIALIST CENTRE

Bee and wasp sting challenges ..... YES/ NO/ REFER TO NEAREST SPECIALIST CENTRE

30. If you refer to a specialist centre near you for any of the above services, which centre would this be?

[Alder Hey Children's Hospital](#)

31. Does your service run joint allergy clinics with the following specialty clinics.

Ear Nose Throat

Anaesthesia

Dermatology

- Haematology (for mastocytosis)  
 Respiratory  
Other (please specify)

NO

**32.** Up to the 31 March 2021, how many referrals have your service received for advice regarding potential COVID-19 vaccine allergy? (approx) ..... [This is a paediatric service, therefore Covid vaccination was not relevant.](#)

**33.** How many of these referrals have resulted in patients being seen in allergy clinics? (face-to-face or via telephone/video) (approx) ..... [none](#)

If you would like to make any further comments regarding patient activity, please do so here.

### Patient access

**34.** Are patients offered the option to contact the service directly got advice during the working week (Monday-Friday and in normal working hours)

- Yes  No

**35.** Are patients offered the option to contact the service directly for advice out of hours including over weekends and bank holidays?

- Yes  No [can seek advice via inpatient wards](#)

**36.** How are patients invited to request advice...

- Telephone  Text message  Social media  Email

Other (please specify)

[Usually by telephone, but we do receive some email enquiries.](#)

**37.** How quickly is your service able to respond to requests for advice?

- Less than 4 hours  Same working day  Next working day  Within 2 working days  
 Over 2 working days

### Networks

**38.** Is your service part of a regional network for allergy

- Yes  No

**39.** If Yes, please state which network(s).

[North West Allergy Network](#)

**40.** How many allergy network meetings have been held between 01 April 2020 and 31 March 2021?

[There are normally at least 4 Network meeting per year, plus one full day study day.](#)

**41.** How were the network meetings held?



Face-to-face  Remotely\*  Combination of face-to-face and remotely\*  
\*telephone/video

Requester to contact allergy network

## Research

42. In the last 3 years has your service been involved in...

Commercial research/trials for allergy ..... none

Non-commercial research/trials for allergy ..... none

But we conducted a large audit on CMPA allergy presented in FAAM 2018 –Copenhagen.

43.If you would like to add any additional comments, please do so here.

44. Are you registered with the IQAS accreditation programme? Yes/ No

Our service is a paediatric allergy service, and IQAS is mainly for adult services.

If no, are you considering registering with the programme? Yes/ No

Our service is a paediatric allergy service, and IQAS is mainly for adult services.

It would be helpful for us to know your thoughts/ opinion regarding the registration programme.

Thank you for taking time to complete this census.

Data from the survey will form a part of a study aimed at understanding current provision of allergy services in the UK funded by the Wellcome Trust. If you do not want your data to be included in this study, please email the RCP office team at [askqpids@rcp.ac.uk](mailto:askqpids@rcp.ac.uk).

If you would like more information on the Wellcome study, please contact the principal investigator, Dr Lavanya Diwakar, at [l.diwakar@bham.ac.uk](mailto:l.diwakar@bham.ac.uk)