

Freedom of Information Act 2000

The Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust Response to Information request

Date Request Received: 24th July 2025

FOI Ref No 29682

Requested Information:

Please provide information about how syncope and unexplained loss of consciousness are managed within your Trust.

We understand there may not be a standalone “syncope/loss of consciousness” service. If this is the case, we would appreciate if the following services were contacted for the purpose of this FOI request:

- Cardiology
- Neurology
- Geriatric Medicine
- Emergency Department

1. How many patients were presented to your department over the last three financial years, coded under Syncope, Blackout, Faint, Loss of Consciousness or Transient Loss of Consciousness (TLOC)?
2. Of the above patients, how many were admitted to the hospital ward for further assessment?
3. How many were discharged on the same day following a period of observation?
4. Do you have a local syncope management/referral pathway being actively utilised by clinicians?
5. Do you have a syncope unit attached to ED or somewhere within your hospital?
6. If yes, which business unit/department is your syncope unit located in? E.g. cardiology, neurology

Response:

- 1. How many patients were presented to your department over the last three financial years, coded under Syncope, Blackout, Faint, Loss of Consciousness or Transient Loss of Consciousness (TLOC)?**
 - Please see appendix one
- 2. Of the above patients, how many were admitted to the hospital ward for further assessment?**

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- 3. How many were discharged on the same day following a period of observation?**
 - Please see appendix one
- 4. Do you have a local syncope management/referral pathway being actively utilised by clinicians?**
 - At this time RCHT does not have a single syncope referral pathway. Patients presenting with syncope as an inpatient or outpatient can however be referred to Geriatric medicine for assessment. If requiring an inpatient review, they can be referred via the frailty take (admission pathway) or, if already an inpatient, via an inpatient referral to Eldercare.
 - They can also be discussed with the on-call Consultant Geriatrician via the 'Silverphone' which is available 8am until 9:30pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 8pm Saturday and Sunday.
 - If requiring outpatient assessment, patients can be referred into our services on discharge from another ward, from ED or from primary care.
 - Referrals from primary care are made to a Falls clinic as per the below guideline. https://rms.cornwall.nhs.uk/primary_care_clinical_referral_criteria/primary_care_clinical_referral_criteria/eldercare/falls
- 5. Do you have a syncope unit attached to ED or somewhere within your hospital?**
 - RCHT does not have a syncope unit attached to ED or somewhere else within our hospitals.
- 6. If yes, which business unit/department is your syncope unit located in? E.g. cardiology, neurology**
 - n/a

Attachment(s):

Appendix One – FOI Ref 29682 Syncope Services

Date Response sent: 15th August 2025