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Request for Information Reference: 07.18.11

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Email only

26 July 2018

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information received on 6 July 2018 in relation to the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (Trust). We are dealing with your request under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested information regarding the Routine provision of bisphosphonates to prevent the spread of breast cancer. Specifically you asked for:

Research has shown that in postmenopausal women bisphosphonates reduce the risk of primary or early breast cancer spreading to other parts of the body, where it becomes incurable.

Recommendations on the use of bisphosphonates for postmenopausal women to prevent breast cancer spreading to other parts of the body have been made in clinical advice from NHS England's Clinical Expert Group on Breast Cancer circulated in August 2017.

We are seeking to build a comprehensive picture of where bisphosphonates are available in this indication.

Our request relates to routine provision of bisphosphonates to reduce the risk of primary breast cancer spreading to other parts of the body. It does not apply to bisphosphonates in other indications, whether in breast cancer or another condition.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would be grateful if you could provide answers to the following questions

- 1. Does your Trust routinely provide bisphosphonates to postmenopausal women with primary breast cancer to reduce the risk of their cancer spreading to other parts of the body?***

Answer: Yes for the services we provide in the North of the Trust. In the South of the Trust services are provided from South Tees Foundation Trust. We would advise, in accordance with Section 16 of the Act (duty to provide advice and assistance), that you contact South Tees Foundation Trust for the requested information via the following email address: stees.foi.admin@nhs.net

- 2. If your Trust does routinely provide bisphosphonates to reduce the risk of primary breast cancer spreading to other parts of the body, but is not providing them for all postmenopausal women, how is eligibility defined? For example, women at increased risk of recurrence.**

Answer: Anyone who has had Chemotherapy, which would be a sub-group of patients who would be considered at higher risk

- 3. If your Trust does routinely provide bisphosphonates for postmenopausal women to reduce the risk of primary breast cancer spreading to other parts of the body, which bisphosphonates do you prescribe? For example, zoledronic acid, ibandronic acid, sodium clodronate.**

Answer: Zoledronic Acid

- 4. If your Trust does not routinely provide bisphosphonates for postmenopausal women to reduce the risk of primary breast cancer spreading to other parts of the body, what are your reasons for not doing so?**

Answer: N/A

In line with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log. Therefore, a version of our response which will protect your anonymity will be posted on the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust website.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above telephone number or at the above address.

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review by writing to:

The Chief Executive
County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust
Darlington Memorial Hospital
Hollyhurst Road

Darlington
DL3 6HX

If, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113
Website: www.ico.gov.uk.

There is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours sincerely

Joanna Tyrrell
Freedom of Information Officer