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Darlington Memorial Hospital
Hollyhurst Road
Darlington
DL3 6HX
Switchboard Tel: 01325 38 0100
Foundation Trust Office: 01325 74 3625
Corporate Records Office: 01325 74 3700

Request for Information Reference: 11.18.27

Direct line: 01325 743700
Email: cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net

Email only

29 November 2018

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information received on 20 November 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 Rheumatoid Arthritis. Specifically you requested information as follows:

1. Within your Trust how many patients do you have diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis?

Answer: The Trust does not centrally record this information, to supply the number would require the review of patient notes which would take over the permitted timescale within the act therefore; we are refusing this section of your request for information pursuant to section 12 of the Act on the grounds that we estimate that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit at the present time is £450.00 which equates to eighteen and a quarter hours of work by a member of staff at the rate of £25 per hour.

2. How many Rheumatoid Arthritis patients have had an IFR [Individual Funding Request] put in for them to have an advanced treatment (i.e. biologic or JAK inhibitor) in the past 12 months?

Answer: There have been 0 IFR requests for those treatments in the last 12 months

3. How many patients do you have diagnosed with moderate Rheumatoid Arthritis? [moderate is defined within the guidelines as patients with a DAS score of between 3.2 and 5.1]

Answer: The Trust does not centrally record this information, to supply the number would require the review of patient notes which would take over the permitted timescale within the act therefore; we are refusing this section of your request for information pursuant to section 12 of the Act on the grounds that we estimate that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit at the present time is £450.00 which equates to eighteen and a quarter hours of work by a member of staff at the rate of £25 per hour.

4. How many moderate Rheumatoid Arthritis patients have had an IFR [Individual Funding Request] put in for them to have an advanced treatment (i.e. biologic or JAK inhibitor) in the past 12 months?

Answer: Zero

5. How many moderate Rheumatoid Arthritis patients have been granted an IFR request for an advanced treatment (i.e. biologic or JAK inhibitor) in the past 12 months?

Answer: Zero

6. If possible, please state the number of patients and the name of an advanced treatment (i.e. biologic or JAK inhibitor) provided

Answer: The Trust does not centrally record this information, to supply the number would require the review of patient notes which would take over the permitted timescale within the act therefore; we are refusing this section of your request for information pursuant to section 12 of the Act on the grounds that we estimate that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit at the present time is £450.00 which equates to eighteen and a quarter hours of work by a member of staff at the rate of £25 per hour.

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