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Request for Information Reference: 12.18.04

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Email only

7 January 2019

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information received on 5 December 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 metastatic breast cancer. Specifically you requested information as follows:

1. Within your health Trust how many metastatic breast cancer patients are currently (within the past 6 months) being treated, with any therapy, surgery or palliative care?

Answer: Total patients 131 – received drug therapy only.

We are able to provide number on non-hormonal systemic therapy, but not hormone only treatment. Surgery is not recorded in a way which would enable us to pull the data so a manual audit would be needed which would take in excess of 18 hours.

2. Within your health Trust how many breast cancer patients are currently (within the past 6 months) being treated for bone metastases with the following treatments;

disodium pamidronate (Aredia):	0
ibandronic acid or ibandronate (Bondronat):	0*
sodium clodronate (Bonefos, Clasteon, Loron):	0*
zoledronic acid or zoledronate (Zometa):	1
denosumab (Xgeva):	40

3. Within your health Trust how many breast cancer patients are currently [within the past 6 months] being treated with adjuvant therapy with the following treatments;

disodium pamidronate (Aredia)
ibandronic acid or ibandronate (Bondronat)
sodium clodronate (Bonefos, Clasteon, Loron)
zoledronic acid or zoledronate (Zometa)

Answer: Data is not available electronically and would require a manual audit and could not be achieved within 18 hours.

4. Within your health Trust how many metastatic lung cancer patients are currently [within the past 6 months] being treated with any therapy, surgery or palliative care.

Answer: Total patients 130 - Patients received drug treatment only.

Surgery for lung cancer is not provided by our trust and would be very unlikely this would be provided for known metastatic disease prior to treatment. Palliative care numbers are not systematically recorded electronically and due to the variety of specialist and non-specialist pathways this type of care is provided on, it is not possible to give numbers on this without a significant audit being undertaken.

5. Within your health Trust how many lung cancer patients are currently [within the past 6 months] being treated for bone metastases with the following treatments;

disodium pamidronate (Aredia)	0
ibandronic acid or ibandronate (Bondronat)	0*
sodium clodronate (Bonefos, Clasteon, Loron)	0*
zoledronic acid or zoledronate (Zometa)	1
denosumab (Xgeva)	1

6. Within your health Trust how many metastatic renal cell cancer patients are currently [within the past 6 months] being treated with any therapy, surgery or palliative care.

Answer: The Trust does not treat RCC – patients are referred to City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust / The Newcastle Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust / South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

7. Within your health Trust how many renal cell carcinoma [RCC] patients are currently [within the past 6 months] being treated for bone metastases with the following treatments;

disodium pamidronate (Aredia)
ibandronic acid or ibandronate (Bondronat)
sodium clodronate (Bonefos, Clasteon, Loron)
zoledronic acid or zoledronate (Zometa)
denosumab (Xgeva)

Answer: The Trust does not treat RCC – patients are referred to City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust / The Newcastle Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust / South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Unfortunately our Trust does not currently collect our data in the way that would allow us to respond accurately to all of the above questions. The above answers are reliant on data retrieved from our chemotherapy electronic prescribing system. This only covers bone sparing medicines prescribed for administration within the Trust; therefore we are unable to confirm if there were any patients receiving ibandronic acid and sodium clodronate. This would normally be prescribed by the patients' General Practitioners. Coding and episode data is not collected down to metastatic level.

Although we hold data on initial diagnosis in our cancer database, this usually only updated if a patient is re-discussed at MDT and patients that may be referred from elsewhere are not recorded routinely. Any data pulled would therefore be extremely inaccurate.

We would need to carry out a manual audit of every diagnosed breast and lung cancer patient in order to provide the data accurately.

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