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Request for Information Reference: 05.19.05

Direct line: 01325 743700  
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Email only

29 May 2019

## **Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information**

Thank you for your request for information received on 7 May 2019 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 unlicensed systemic anticancer therapy (SCAT). Specifically you requested information as follows:

***I would like to request information about the availability of unlicensed systemic anticancer therapy (SCAT) being offered at your hospital, outside a clinical trial, for the treatment of acute myeloid leukaemia or acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (referred as "indications" below) between April 2017 and April 2019.***

### ***Question 1***

***Does your hospital offered any unlicensed SCATs for these indications that was provided by drug company via a free-of-charge scheme, managed access scheme or patient access scheme that was not commissioned or reimbursed by NHS England?***

### ***Question 2***

***Which drugs were involved in these schemes? If not able to provide name, please state total number?***

### ***Question 3***

***How many patient received treatment under these schemes?***

### ***Question 4***

***Please provide your local procedure/policy for access to unlicensed SCAT that is not commissioned or reimbursed by NHS England? Who is responsible for approval of these requests in your organisation?***

**Question 5**

***Please provide your local pharmacy procedure/policy for quality control or quality reassurance of these unlicensed medications when they are delivered to hospital?***

**County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust replies:**

The Trust does not routinely offer treatment for either Acute Myeloid Leukaemia or Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia. In rare instances we have initiated treatment, either while transport was arranged, or where a patient was too unstable to travel.

In these cases they were not unlicensed medicines.

**Question 1**

***Does your hospital offer any unlicensed SCATs for these indications that was provided by drug company via a free-of-charge scheme, managed access scheme or patient access scheme that was not commissioned or reimbursed by NHS England?***

Answer: No.

**Question 2**

***Which drugs were involved in these schemes? If not able to provide name, please state total number?***

Answer: N/A.

**Question 3**

***How many patient received treatment under these schemes?***

Answer: N/A.

**Question 4**

***Please provide your local procedure/policy for access to unlicensed SCAT that is not commissioned or reimbursed by NHS England? Who is responsible for approval of these requests in your organisation?***

Answer: N/A.

**Question 5**

***Please provide your local pharmacy procedure/policy for quality control or quality reassurance of these unlicensed medications when they are delivered to hospital?***

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](http://www.ico.gov.uk).

There is no charge for making an appeal.

Yours sincerely

**Joanna Tyrrell**  
**Freedom of Information Officer**