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Request for Information Reference: 12.19.12

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Email only

8 January 2020

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information received on 9 December 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 pelvic radiation disease. Specifically you requested information as follows:

We are undertaking some research into specialist service provision for people suffering from pelvic radiation disease following cervical cancer treatment. In 2017 we published a report, 'Long Term Consequences of Cervical Cancer and its treatment' which found that 88% of women have experienced at least one, 63% at least three and 24% at least six physical long term consequences of their cervical cancer treatment. Only half of women who have experienced bowel and urinary problems had received treatment (41% and 54% respectively).

We would be grateful if you could answer the below questions so we can build a picture of the referral protocols that are being used, and the availability of services across the country.

1. Does your Trust have specialist clinics for patients who have had treatment for cervical cancer and are experiencing the late effects of pelvic radiotherapy, e.g. bowel or urinary issues (also known as pelvic radiation disease or PRD)?

Answer: No.

a. If so, please give details of:

- i. The clinic(s) name and opening times?*
- ii. Annual caseload?*
- iii. The proportion of patients referred direct from oncology?*
- iv. The proportion of patients referred from their GP?*

2. Does your oncology team have a standardised method of identifying people with PRD for referral (e.g. by asking patients the questions in the ALERT-B tool to support the clinical assessment of patients suitable for referral to a gastroenterologist)?

Answer: We are not a Radiotherapy Centre and as such we do not run local Oncology clinics for patients with cervical cancer so the Trust is unable to answer much of your request as it does not apply to us. However, please note, all follow up for patients receiving pelvic radiation would be either at James Cook University Hospital (JCUH) in Middlesbrough or Newcastle Centre for Cancer Care at Freeman Road Hospital. Therefore, for questions 2, 3 and 4 please contact JCUH or Newcastle Centre for Cancer Care at Freeman Road Hospital as they could answer on behalf of our patient cohort.

If you wish to contact them in accordance with Section 16 of the Act (duty to provide advice and assistance) you can contact them via the following Email addresses accordingly:

James Cook University Hospital: stees.foi.admin@nhs.net

FreedomofInformation@nuth.nhs.uk or by post to: Freedom of Information, Freeman Hospital, Freeman Road, High Heaton, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Tyne and Wear, NE7 7DN

3. Does your radiotherapy centre ensure patients are aware of possible acute and long-term side effects of pelvic radiotherapy before they undergo treatment? If so, how?

Answer: Please see the answer to Q2.

4. Does your radiotherapy centre offer a range of materials to support with acute or late effects of radiotherapy, e.g. booklets, symptom checklist, toilet cards? If so, what materials do you provide?

Answer: Please see the answer to Q2.

5. Do your gastroenterologists and dieticians use the PRD bowel algorithm, published in 'The Practical Management of the Gastrointestinal Symptoms of Pelvic Radiation Disease'? https://www.macmillan.org.uk/images/practical-management-gi-symptoms-pelvic-radiation-disease_tcm9-300557.pdf



County Durham
and Darlington

NHS Foundation Trust

Answer: Gastroenterology follows the PRD Algorithm. Nutrition and dietetics do not use the PRD bowel algorithm.

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