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Darlington Memorial Hospital
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Darlington
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Foundation Trust Office: 01325 74 3625
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Request for Information Reference: 09.20.11

Email: cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net

Email only

6 October 2020

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 8 September 2020 in relation to County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (the Trust). Your request has been processed under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and I am now able to provide you with a response.

Your request was in relation to fatal toxicity and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

- 1. What is the protocol or approach used by the Oncology Specialty in your Health Trust since 01/01/2016 to prevent serious or fatal toxicity to 5-FU or capecitabine or tegafur when prescribed for a range of malignancies, particularly breast and gastrointestinal cancers?**

Please note, for the answer to Questions 1 the Trust does not treat the specified types of cancer they are treated by Newcastle NHS Foundation Trust and South Tees NHS Foundation Trust. Newcastle NHS Foundation Trust and South Tees NHS Foundation Trust should be the first point of contact for this information as both Trusts treat these types of cancer with both types of drugs. If you wish to contact Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and South Tees NHS Foundation Trust we would advise, in accordance with Section 16 of the Act (duty to provide advice and assistance), that you contact these organisations via the following addresses:

The Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Freeman Hospital
Freeman Road
High Heaton
Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE7 7DN

South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
The James Cook University Hospital

Marlon Road
Middlesbrough
TS4 3BW

2. How many fatalities or cases of serious toxicity have occurred in your Health Trust due to this specific issue since 01/01/2016?

Please note that until 2019, only half of the Trust was using the current Chemocare system and prior to that date information on toxicities was held in the patients clinical notes only. The system is limited in the data it can provide (it records toxicity only and not the severity) so to check all records would take a member of staff over 18 hours as the notes need to be individually checked for each patient. The Trust is therefore 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 hours of work by a member of staff at the rate of £25 per hour.

Please note, the figures below give the data Trust wide from 2019 only:

- 2 patients have died as a result of toxicity linked to one of these drugs.
- There were 27 other incidences of toxicity recorded on chemocare since 2019 but (as above) the severity has not been recorded.

In addition, in 2017 and 2018 (when use of Chemocare was used by Bishop Auckland Hospital and Darlington Memorial Hospital only.

- 2 Patients have died from symptoms of toxicity which may have been linked to one of these drugs.
- There were another 34 incidences of toxicity recorded.

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 on the Trust's website. However please be assured that we anonymise all responses prior to adding them to the disclosure log.

I hope that this response has provided you with the information you had requested. If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone or in writing. If however, you are dissatisfied with the way in which your request has been handled and would like an internal review, you will need to contact me in writing at the above address or via cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.

If you remain dissatisfied with our response following an internal review you have the right to appeal to The Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. More information is available on their website; www.ico.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

Joanna Tyrrell
Freedom of Information Officer