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Request for Information Reference: 04.21.22

Email: cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.net

Email only

18 May 2021

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 15 April 2021 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.

Firstly please accept my apologies for the time taken to respond. Your request was in relation to Melanoma skin cancer and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

1. Within your NHS Trust could you confirm what ‘follow up regime’ you normally provide for newly diagnosed patients by Melanoma Stage (IA-IIC) and the number of years (1 to 5) the follow up continues for, in line with your clinical protocols? To help with completion we have inserted a table below. Or please provide back in excel if easier.

Please see Attachment 1 which is the Trust’s local Policy which is in line with the National guidance and Northern Cancer Alliance. This Policy is also in the Standard Operating Procedure for Skin Cancer.

2. Could you please provide a copy of the latest service specification for your Melanoma skin cancer service at the Trust, which shows the care pathway that you provide? Normally found under ‘Schedule 2’ of the Standard contract in place, with your commissioner?

Please see Attachment 1 which is the Trust’s local Policy which is in line with the National guidance and Northern Cancer Alliance. This Policy is also in the Standard Operating Procedure for Skin Cancer.

3. Could you please confirm if you use any ‘send away dermatopathology services’ within your NHS Trust? A send away or referral service is one where the pathology work is contracted out to a third party laboratory. Yes or No

Yes, currently due to staff shortage we are sending work to a third party

4. Could you please confirm for your Trust in 2018/19, the following numbers of newly diagnosed Melanoma skin cancer patients and the number of these who have received a subsequent Sentinel Lymph Node biopsy by Melanoma Stage?

Skin diagnosis for the period April 2018 to March 2019

Staging	Total Pts	Total Sentinel lymph nodes completed
ALL	334	70
IA	150	0
IB	41	2
IIA	45	28
IIB	3	2
IIC	0	0

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