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Request for Information Reference: 05.24.23

FOI Direct line: 01325 743700
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Email only

10th June 2024

Dear

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 13th May 2024 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 Myeloma Service Provision and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

I am requesting the following information on local healthcare and support service provision for multiple myeloma patients as part of a wider project (funded by Myeloma UK). Please provide the following information:

As of 1 Jan 2024:

1. Total population size served by Regional Board

The Trust can only answer for County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust and not the Regional Board.

For the Trust there is a population of around 650,000 population.

2. Number of hospitals providing oncology services

4 hospitals, providing out-patient and day case chemotherapy. One inpatient unit for haematology and oncology.

- 3. Total number of consultant haematologists employees; specialist haematology registrars employed; consultant haematologists specialising in multiple myeloma; haematology clinical nurse specialists employed and multiple myeloma clinical nurse specialists.**

5 x Consultant Haematologists,
1 x Specialist Registrar
4 x Haematology Specialist Nurses

During 2023 (1 Jan – 31 Dec), please provide the:

- 4. Total number of multiple myeloma (MM) cases diagnosed (Please state which code(s) were used)**

34 patients with Primary Diagnosis C90.0

- 5. If known, how many people were diagnosed with smouldering multiple myeloma?**

The Trust does not code to the level of smouldering multiple myeloma in the cancer reporting data. In order to gather this information it would require a member of staff to manually examine the sets of patient's notes. Therefore, we are 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.

- 6. How many in-person haematology-based consultation/telephone haematology-based consultations/ video haematology-based consultation took place for people diagnosed with MM?**

The following figures will contain multiple consultations

In Person	– 86
Telephone	– 37
Video	– 0

During 2023 (1 Jan – 31 Dec):

- 7. Were multiple myeloma (MM) patients discussed/reviewed at a MM specific MDT or general haematology MDT?**

Yes, these are carried out at Newcastle Hospital.

Please see Question 5 (Section 16)

8. How frequently did MDT meetings meet?

Weekly

9. What percentage of MM patients diagnosed in 2023 were reviewed/discussed at a MDT?

100%

10. Which professionals/disciplines are represented on MDT meetings for MM?

Please see question 5 (Section 16)

11. What supportive and palliative care services are available for MM patients?

The Trust has Specialist Palliative Care teams that are based on acute sites and provide support to patients who are in-patients. There are also services provided at three local hospices and additional support from Macmillan Community Palliative Care team.

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.cddffoi@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

Corporate Records and Freedom of Information Facilitator