

Title

Oncology Treatment for Inpatients

Reference Number: RDF1414-23

Date of Response: 18/04/2023

Further to your Freedom of Information Act request, please find the Trust's response(s) below:

Please be aware that the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (Royal Devon) has existed since 1st April 2022 following the integration of the Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust (known as Northern Services) and the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust (known as Eastern Services).

i) if a patient residing in one of the trust's hospitals was diagnosed or had previously been diagnosed with cancer, would they be able to receive treatment when they were an inpatient.

Patients can receive cancer treatment as an inpatient on both sites, but this will be dependent on the diagnosed cancer and treatment modality. Inpatient SACT, Radiotherapy and some specialist surgery will only be available on the Eastern site due to infrastructure to facilitate these interventions. The teams across both sites work very closely together liaising appropriate to transfer care if appropriate to the correct location in a timely manner. To try and limit the impact on patients travelling many of the consultant teams work across both sites, facilitating care locally pre and post the intervention where appropriate.

ii) If not, does the Trust have a policy of patients receiving treatment for cancer only when they are an outpatient - and does this depend on which kind of treatment they receive? This question is not applicable.

iii) In addition, could you please confirm the average time it takes from the decision that a patient is medically fit to be discharged until they are discharged

Although the average is 4.9 days, this is dependent on the patient and care needs post discharge, the teams do work extremely hard with the appropriate agencies to discharge patients in a timely manner however there are delays for various reasons including care packages, nursing home availability etc.

In addition, there is an agreement in place to transfer patients back to the Northern site within 48hrs when deemed fit for discharge, although recently with the bed pressures this has not always been possible