

Haematological Cancer - Clinical Nurse Specialists

Reference Number: RDF2155-23

Date of Response: 18/01/24

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 am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act.

We are currently interested in finding out more information about the role of a Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) within hospital trusts. We want to make sure that people with leukaemia are given the correct access to a CNS as we believe this role, and the support provided, is extremely valuable to those who have received a diagnosis and are being treated for leukaemia.

NB: All of the following requests are relating to the treatment of adults (16 years +) only. The information we request is from your most recent data.

1. Which haematological cancers are treated at your trust?

Answer: All haematology cancers are treated within the Trust; the Eastern site supports the Northern site with any inpatient or specialist care. The haematology team use the expertise of the tertiary centre for specialised treatments for particular haematology cancer's but the patient remains under the care of the RDU team

2. How many blood cancer patients are under the care of your trust?

Answer: 219 patients who are in a Cancer pathway and received treatment (first or subsequent) between 01/07/2023 to 30/11/2023.

3. Total number of haematological Clinical Nurse Specialists are in the trust?

Answer: For Royal Devon Eastern Services – x3.76 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) supported by x1 WTE band 4 Support Worker. For Royal Devon Northern Services - x2 1.6 WTE Band 7 and x1 WTE Band 6.

4. Total number of leukaemia specific CNS's are in the trust?

a. If you do have leukaemia specific CNS's in the trust, how many leukaemia patients are there per leukaemia CNS's?

b. Do have myeloid and lymphoid specific CNS's and if so, how many of each?

Answer: The CNS team support the whole haematology cancer portfolio.

5. *Are haematological/ blood cancer CNS's required to undertake normal ward duties?*

Answer: No, the haematology CNS do not work on the wards.

6. *Have you measured patient access to CNS's within the trust? If so, what was the outcome?*

Answer: Feedback is sought via the cancer patient survey regarding access to in then used within the Annual General Meeting (AGM) to develop an improvement plan, if required.

7. *Do you have, or plan to have any funding in place for training more haematology or blood cancer specific CNS's?*

Answer: A training package is in place for all oncology and haematology nurses including access to the haematology course facilitated by the Royal Devon haematology CNS team, this provides the basis for nurses to move into the CNS role.