

Title

Full Blood Count Test for Chemo Treatment

Reference Number: RDF2004-23

Date of Response: 22/11/23

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).

In line with the Freedom of Information Act (2000) we would like to understand the use of Full Blood Count tests (FBC; also called Complete Blood Count, CBC) for chemotherapy cancer treatment given by your hospitals. This can cover tests prescribed to be done in-hospital or at a point-of-care unit (pharmacy, GP) in the last year January 2022-January 2023.

We would be grateful if you could respond to the following questions:

1. For the services in your hospital, are FBC tests prescribed to be done at the hospital, in a GP unit or at the pharmacy or in some other primary care setting?
FBC tests are prescribed to be done by GP, and in the acute and community setting. We do not hold a breakdown of this, but it is a mix of all of them.
2. What percentage of FBC tests alone (without a biochemistry test such as kidney function) are prescribed for chemotherapy patients per month?
The Trust is unable to respond to this question. The Trust does not collect this data.
3. What is the expected time for FBC tests scheduled before chemotherapy - 72h before chemotherapy day, 48h, 24h, or on the day of chemotherapy?
The Trust is unable to respond to this question. The Trust does not collect this data.
4. In the last year January 2022-January 2023 how many cancer treatment appointments for chemotherapy were cancelled due to the patient having neutropenia and/or thrombocytopenia on the same day as chemotherapy scheduled appointment?
To obtain the information requested in this question would require trust staff to conduct a manual pull of data and then checking through all cancellations, and therefore would take a significant period of time to process. This work would exceed the appropriate cost limit as set out in Section 12 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and is therefore exempt.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 Section 12 (1) and defined in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request for information if it estimates the cost of complying would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit of £450 represents the estimated cost of one person spending two and a half days in determining whether the Trust holds the information, locating, retrieving, and extracting that information.

5. [What are chemotherapies that only require an FBC test to decide if chemotherapy can be administered \(without other biochemistry tests such as kidney function\)?](#)

To obtain the information requested in this question would require a manual pull and review of each individual chemotherapy regimen to check against each one individually which would take a significant period of time for the clinical teams to undertake. To carry out this work would exceed the appropriate cost limit as set out in Section 12 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and is therefore exempt.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 Section 12 (1) and defined in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request for information if it estimates that the cost of complying would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit of £450 represents the estimated cost of one person spending two and a half days in determining whether the Trust holds the information, locating, retrieving, and extracting that information.