

Date: 06/12/2016

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST FOI/013134 – Elective surgery cancellations

- Over the past five financial years (2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16) please state the number of last minute elective surgery cancellations there have been or non-clinical reasons for the following branches of surgery: trauma and orthopaedics, neurology, cancer, and ophthalmology. Please break down by year and surgery type.
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- Over the past five financial years (2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16) please state how many patients were not treated within 28 days of last minute elective cancellation of an operation for the following branches of surgery: trauma and orthopaedics, neurology, cancer, and ophthalmology. Please break down by year and surgery type.

The Trust makes every effort to avoid and limit patient cancellations for non-clinical reasons, and where appropriate the Trust also aims to reschedule patients within 28 days of cancellation. However from time to time, it is necessary to cancel elective cases largely due to surges in emergency surgery demand or the need to treat patients of a higher clinical urgency.

In the context of the cancer patient cancellations, 6 patients in 5 years did not have operative surgery within 28 days. All 6 cancer patients did not have surgery within 28 days for legitimate clinical or patient choice reasons including; patients un-well for their rescheduled surgery, patients declined the surgery date offered within 28 days, and patients received other more appropriate treatment instead. There are many Ophthalmology and Trauma & Orthopaedics patients who similarly were not operated on within 28 days for legitimate patient choice and clinical reasons.

For the reasons outlined above, the figures in table two will not match those submitted to NHS England relating to breaches of the standard to treat patients within 28 days of last minute cancellation for non-clinical reasons, as those patients who choose to defer treatment are not counted as a breach to this national standard.

1. Elective surgery cancellations for non-clinical reasons

Year	Cancer	Ophthalmology	Trauma & Orthopaedics	Neurology
2011/12	4	20	44	n/a
2012/13	11	20	32	n/a
2013/14	18	38	46	n/a
2014/15	16	65	38	n/a
2015/16	16	91	64	n/a

2. Patients not treated within 28 days of last minute elective cancellation

Year	Cancer	Ophthalmology	Trauma & Orthopaedics	Neurology
2011/12	1	9	15	n/a
2012/13	1	5	11	n/a
2013/14	1	8	15	n/a
2014/15	2	17	12	n/a
2015/16	1	25	25	n/a