

Freedom of Information request 014318
27/9/18

I am writing to you on behalf of Breast Cancer Care with a request for information, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We would be grateful if you could answer the following questions, relating to the support provided to patients with a diagnosis of secondary breast cancer under the care of your Trust.

By a diagnosis of secondary breast cancer, we mean breast cancer that has spread to other parts of the body such as the bones, lungs, liver or brain. Secondary breast cancer is also referred to as 'metastatic' or 'advanced' or 'stage 4' breast cancer.

Our questions

Holistic Needs Assessments (HNAs)

1) Do patients with secondary breast cancer have a Holistic Needs Assessment (HNA), used to plan their care, conducted at the point of diagnosis (of their secondary breast cancer) and/or as their treatment changes?

- Yes, at the point of diagnosis only
- Yes, at the point of diagnosis and as their treatment changes
- No
- Other/unsure (please provide further information if possible) – Our patients are offered an appointment with a nurse prior to commencing subsequent lines of treatment for metastatic disease and will be offered a HNA if they accept invitation.

2) If **yes**, do the HNAs cover the following areas?

- Emotional concerns and needs - yes
- Physical concerns and needs – Yes
- Information needs – Yes
- Consideration of palliative care needs Yes

Access to a Clinical Nurse Specialist

3) How many people with secondary breast cancer are currently under the care of your Trust?

The trust cancer registration database does not hold reliable information on patients with a diagnosis on secondary breast cancer, only primary. Furthermore it stores information on when treatments happen, it is not easy to answer under the care of.

4) Do all patients with secondary breast cancer under the care of your Trust have access to a Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) with the appropriate skills, knowledge and experience of secondary breast cancer? No – however the breast care nurses in post offer support to the metastatic patients in a limited capacity. The Trust has a business case progressing for a metastatic breast care nurse to address this issue.

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5) If **yes**, do these nurses:

- a) provide care to secondary breast cancer patients only? (Yes/No)
- b) provide care to both primary and secondary breast cancer patients? (yes/no)

6) If **yes**, please provide the number of CNS posts that fall under each of these categories (as applicable):

- a) CNSs that provide care to secondary breast cancer patients only
- b) CNSs that provide care to both primary and secondary breast cancer patients

7) If there are CNS posts within your Trust **that provide care to both primary and secondary breast cancer patients**, please tell us if they:

- a) work in a combined role (where the care of both primary and secondary breast cancer patients is part of their formal job description) (yes/no)
- b) work across both areas but their formal job description only covers primary breast cancer patients (yes/no)

Information and referrals

8) At diagnosis and/or during the time they are under the care of your Trust, are patients with secondary breast cancer provided with the following information and/or referred to the following services?

- local and national secondary breast cancer support services - Yes
- specialist services for financial and employment advice – Yes
- information on talking to those closest to them about the impact of living with secondary breast cancer - Yes
- information about support available for family members – Yes
- local palliative and supportive care services, including referral for symptom control when needed Yes
- support and information on planning end-of-life care – Yes

Treatment Summaries

9) Do patients with secondary breast cancer receive a Treatment Summary* at the end of each significant phase of treatment? No – we do not routinely offer end of treatment summaries to our patients.

Access to Health and Wellbeing Events

10) Does your Trust offer a Health and Wellbeing event* suitable for patients with secondary breast cancer? Yes - there is a monthly programme accessible to patients at all points of the cancer treatment trajectory and this includes a session on palliative care.

By suitable, we mean that it is adapted to be relevant to the needs of those living with secondary breast cancer. For example:

- * **focuses on living with cancer, rather than adapting after finishing treatment.**
- may be more than one session, rather than a single event
- may include discussions on specific topics such as palliative care

*(*A Health and Wellbeing event is defined as a group education and support event which helps people to manage their physical and psychological health after a cancer diagnosis. An example of this is Breast Cancer Care's 'Living with Secondary Breast Cancer' service)*