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King's Mill Hospital
Mansfield Road
Sutton in Ashfield
Nottinghamshire
NG17 4JL

RE: Freedom of Information Request

Tel: 01623 622515
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31st October 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 26th October 2023, in which you asked:

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. What percentage of FBC tests alone (without a biochemistry test such as kidney function) are prescribed for chemotherapy patients per month?
2. 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?
3. What is the expected time for FBC tests scheduled before chemotherapy - 72h before chemotherapy day, 48h, 24h, or on the day of chemotherapy?
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?
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)?

Question	Answer			
1. Percentage of FBC tests alone prescribed for cancer chemotherapy patients				
2. Location of blood sample collection for FBC test (tick all that apply)	In hospital	GP	Pharmacy	Other primary care setting
	Yes or No	Yes or No	Yes or No	Yes or No

Home, Community, Hospital.

Patient Experience Team
01623 672222
sfh-tr.pet@nhs.net



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Chair Claire Ward
Chief Executive Paul Robinson

3. Expected time for FBC tests scheduled before chemotherapy	72h	48	24h	Tests on chemotherapy day
4. Cancer appointments cancelled based on results from an FBC alone (neutropenia and/or thrombocytopenia) on the same day as chemotherapy scheduled appointment				
5. Chemotherapies that only require an FBC test for checking if patient is fit to receive chemotherapy				

I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do not hold the information you have requested. We do not provide this service at the Trust.

Under Section 16 of the Act we have a duty to provide advice and assistance. Please contact Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust FOI@nuh.nhs.uk who may hold this information.

Should you have any further enquiries or queries about this response please do not hesitate to contact me. However, if you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: Sally Brook Shanahan, Director of Corporate Affairs, King's Mill Hospital, Mansfield Road, Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, NG17 4JL or email sally.brookshanahan@nhs.net.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office, who will consider whether we have complied with our obligations under the Act and can require us to remedy any problems.

Generally, the Information Commissioner's Office cannot decide unless you have exhausted the internal review procedure. You can find out more about how to do this, and about the Act in general, on the Information Commissioner's Office website at: <https://ico.org.uk/your-data-matters/official-information/>.

Complaints to the Information Commissioner's Office should be sent to FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Telephone 0303 1231113, email casework@ico.org.uk.

If you would like this letter or information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call us on 01623 672232 or email sfh-tr.foi.requests@nhs.net.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance Team

All information we have provided is subject to the provisions of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015. Accordingly, if the information has been made available for re-use under the [Open Government Licence](#) (OGL) a request to re-use is not required, but the licence conditions must be met. You must not re-use any previously unreleased information without having the consent from Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Should you wish to re-use previously unreleased information then you must make your request in writing. All requests for re-use will be responded to within 20 working days of receipt.