

## Freedom of Information Act Request

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Q1. How many patients were treated in the last 3 months with any systemic anti-cancer therapies for Gastric cancer or cancer of the Gastro-Oesophageal Junction?

Q2. How many patients were treated in the past 3 months for gastric cancer (any stage) with:

- CAPOX (Capecitabine with Oxaliplatin)
- FOLFOX (Folinic acid, Fluorouracil and Oxaliplatin)
- Lonsurf (Trifluridine - tipiracil)
- Nivolumab in combination with Platinum (Cisplatin or Oxaliplatin) and Fluoropyrimidine (5-Fluorouracil or Capecitabine)
- Pembrolizumab (any formulation) in combination with Platinum (Cisplatin or Oxaliplatin) and Fluoropyrimidine (5-Fluorouracil or Capecitabine)
- Pembrolizumab (395 mg or 790mg solution for injection only) in combination with Platinum (Cisplatin or Oxaliplatin) and Fluoropyrimidine (5-Fluorouracil or Capecitabine)
- Zolbetuximab (Vyloy)
- Any other systemic anti-cancer therapy
- Palliative care only

Q3. How many patients were treated in the past 3 months for cancer of the gastro-oesophageal junction (any stage) with:

- CAPOX (Capecitabine with Oxaliplatin)
- FOLFOX (Folinic acid, Fluorouracil and Oxaliplatin)
- Lonsurf (Trifluridine - tipiracil)
- Nivolumab in combination with Platinum (Cisplatin or Oxaliplatin) and Fluoropyrimidine (5-Fluorouracil or Capecitabine)
- Pembrolizumab (any formulation) in combination with Platinum (Cisplatin or Oxaliplatin) and Fluoropyrimidine (5-Fluorouracil or Capecitabine)
- Pembrolizumab (395 mg or 790mg solution for injection only) in combination with Platinum (Cisplatin or Oxaliplatin) and Fluoropyrimidine (5-Fluorouracil or Capecitabine)
- Zolbetuximab (Vyloy)
- Any other systemic anti-cancer therapy
- Palliative care only

Q4. If you have been unable to answer any of the above questions because you do not treat Gastric or Gastro-Oesophageal Cancer, to which site do you refer patients that require either treatment?

## Response

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the number of patients treated for specified conditions.

The Trust has considered your request and can confirm that Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust holds some information relevant to the subject of your request. However, the

information is not held in a reportable format that would allow the Trust to respond without exceeding the appropriate cost limit under the Act.

While diagnostic codes within the ICD-10 “D” category may occasionally be recorded within patient records, with the exception of certain codes linked to ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS) and lobular carcinoma in situ (LCIS) for breast cancer, the Trust is not required to submit other “D” codes to national datasets such as the Cancer Waiting Times dataset or the Cancer Outcomes and Services Dataset (COSD). As a result, coding for these conditions is not routinely captured or validated in a way that would allow the Trust to produce reliable figures for the number of patients treated for these diagnoses.

Although diagnostic information may sometimes be available within histopathology records, this would only relate to laboratory diagnoses and would not provide a complete record of patients who subsequently received treatment. In addition, inpatient datasets alone would not capture patients who may have commenced or received treatment through outpatient services.

Furthermore, the Trust’s pharmacy system does not store diagnostic information against prescribed treatments. This means that it is not possible to identify patients treated for these conditions through pharmacy records.

To provide the information requested, the Trust would therefore need to conduct a manual audit of individual patient records to identify the diagnosis and confirm whether treatment was provided. The Trust estimates that this process would take more than 18 hours to locate, retrieve and extract the relevant information.

Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, public authorities are not obliged to comply with requests where the cost of doing so would exceed the appropriate limit. For NHS Trusts this limit is set at £450, which equates to 18 hours of staff time calculated at £25 per hour, as specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2007.

As complying with your request would exceed this limit, the Trust is unable to provide the information requested.

### **Further explanation of cost estimate**

In order to identify the information requested, the Trust would need to review individual patient records to determine whether the specified diagnoses were recorded and whether treatment was subsequently provided. This would involve locating relevant patient records, reviewing clinical documentation and coding information, and extracting the required data for each patient individually. As the relevant information is not held within a single searchable dataset and diagnosis data is not recorded against pharmacy prescribing records, this process would require a manual review of a large number of records across multiple systems. The Trust estimates that this process would significantly exceed the 18-hour time limit set under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

If you are not satisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to request an internal review. Requests for an internal review should be submitted within 40 working days from the date of this response, and should be addressed to [d.wraith@nhs.net](mailto:d.wraith@nhs.net).

If you remain dissatisfied after the internal review, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO). The ICO can be contacted at:

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Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF  
Tel: 0303 123 1113  
Website: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>