

Freedom of Information Team
 Post Room
 Queen Alexandra Hospital
 Southwick Hill Road
 Portsmouth
 Hampshire
 PO6 3LY

Name:
 Email:
 Date: 05/05/2021
 Ref: 21-22 024

Dear

Freedom of Information request

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which was received by the Trust on 15/04/2021.

- 1. Within your NHS Trust could you confirm what ‘follow up regime’ you normally provide for newly diagnosed patients by Melanoma Stage (IA-IIC) and the number of years (1 to 5) the follow up continues for, in line with your clinical protocols?**



Melanoma_2010
 BAD Guidelines.pdf

Please see protocol attached above. There are follow-up visits every three months for the first three years. The Trust have stated ‘2-4’ as some people see the patients at four-month intervals.

| Melanoma Stage at diagnosis | No. follow up visits in 1st Year | No. follow up visits in 2nd Year | No. follow up visits in 3rd Year | No. follow up visits in 4th Year | No. follow up visits in 5th Year |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| IA | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| IB | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| IIA | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| IIB | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| IIC | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 |

- 2. Could you please provide a copy of the latest service specification for your Melanoma skin cancer service at the Trust, which shows the care pathway that you provide? Normally found under ‘Schedule 2’ of the Standard contract in place, with your commissioner**

NHSE Specialised Commissioning, commission skin cancer services such as melanoma. Please find below the link to the latest skin cancer service specification which would ordinarily be included in the

Trust's specialised commissioning healthcare contract, although please note that all NHS Trust contracts are currently suspended during the national pandemic and are likely to remain so for the first half of this financial year.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Cancer-skin-adult.pdf>

3. **Could you please confirm if you use any 'send away dermatopathology services' within your NHS Trust? A send away or referral service is one where the pathology work is contracted out to a third-party laboratory.**

The Trust does not contract out any routine reporting of dermatopathology specimens to a third party.

4. **Could you please confirm for your Trust in 2018/19, the following numbers of newly diagnosed Melanoma skin cancer patients and the number of these who have received a subsequent Sentinel Lymph Node biopsy by Melanoma Stage?**

The figures in the table below are for the period 01/04/2018-31/03/2019, it appears that none of the patients in the cohort had their stage recorded, so we're unable to split this data. It is estimated that to attempt to retrieve all the information you require would take a considerable amount of retrieval time, which would exceed 18 hours. This would exceed the appropriate limit for dealing with a Freedom of Information Request, in terms of costs and therefore Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 applies.

The totals are:

| Stage | Total Patients reviewed | Total Sentinel lymph nodes completed |
|-------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ALL | 236 | 56 |

Please accept this letter as completion of your request. Please note that copies of this request will be held on file for three years before being confidentially destroyed.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, please contact our Head of Information Governance on Information.Governance@porthosp.nhs.uk or write to the above address and we will conduct an internal review. Upon review, if you are still dissatisfied, you may appeal our decision by contacting the Information Commissioner's Office; for more information please visit the [ICO's website](#).

Please be aware, if we do not receive an appeal within 30 days of you receiving this letter, we will assume that you are satisfied with our response. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team