

Information Governance

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31 October 2023

Our reference: FOI DA5031

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am responding to your request for information received 26 October 2023. This has been treated as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am now enclosing a response which is attached to the end of this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me on the contact details above if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

Information Rights Coordinator

If you are dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your FOIA request then you should contact us and we will arrange for an internal review of this decision.

If you remain dissatisfied with the decision following our response to your complaint, you may write to the Information Commissioner for a decision under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113
Web: www.ico.org.uk

Please note that the data supplied is not allowed to be re-used and/or published without the explicit consent of East London NHS Foundation Trust. Please contact the signatory to request permission if this is your intention



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'what matters' to everyone, achieve a better quality
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Interim Chief Executive Officer: Lorraine Sunduza
Chair: Eileen Taylor

Request: In line with the Freedom of Information Act (2000) 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)?

Answer: The Trust has reviewed your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000.

Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states:

*Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—
(a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and
(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to them.*

East London NHS Foundation Trust is primarily a Mental Health and Community Health Trust and as such does not provide the services as described in this request. We are therefore unable to provide a response.



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