

Date: 19 December 2019

Re: Freedom of Information Request
Ref: 345 - 2019

Thank you for your email dated the 26th November 2019, requesting information relating to Cancer Alliance and blood cancers.

The information that you require is as follows:

1. **What policies or guidance does the Alliance currently have to support the early diagnosis of cancers in general?**
Optimal pathways and supporting documentation for colorectal and lung cancer. Optimal pathways and supporting documentation in development for prostate, ovarian, endometrial, head and neck and oesophago-gastric cancer. Screening improvement plan in place.

2. **What plans does the Alliance have to improve the early diagnosis of cancers in general?**
The operational plan is in development.

3. **What policies or guidance does the Alliance currently have to support the early diagnosis of blood cancers?**
As per answer to Question 1

4. What plans does the Alliance have to improve the early diagnosis of blood cancers?
Will be included in the development of Rapid Diagnostic Centres over the 4 year period.
5. How is the Alliance working with the Rapid Diagnostic Centres (RDCs)?
The Alliance is leading on developing Rapid Diagnostic Centres with local providers.
6. Where is the RDC to be delivered in your locality?
In 2019/20 we will have RDCs in Mid Cheshire, Liverpool, Southport, Warrington and St Helens and Knowsley.
7. What is the preferred service model for your local RDC?
We will be developing both non-site specific and site-specific Rapid Diagnostic Centres as required by NHS England.
8. How will the RDC help address the diagnosis of blood cancers?
Rapid Diagnostic Centres will support the diagnosis of blood cancers through providing pathways that should enable earlier diagnosis of patients.
9. When do you expect these changes to be in place?
The first Rapid Diagnostic Centres will commence in January 2020 and there will be a full programme to have Rapid Diagnostic Centres for non-specific symptoms and to apply Rapid Diagnostic Centres principles to all 2ww pathways over the next 4 years.

- 10. What work is currently underway between the Alliance and the local Pathology Network to improve the early diagnosis of blood cancers?**

This will likely be included in Rapid Diagnostic Centres plans that are still in development. No specific work on-going currently led by the Alliance. Pathology Transitional Management Team (network) are working on future pathology working models and we will be working closely with them. We are currently funding initial work to improve early detection of lung, colorectal and prostate cancer.

- 11. How will the work of the Alliance be tracked, and will this information be publicly available?**

Tracked as part of NHS England reporting arrangements. Documents are not currently available.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me on the email address provided below.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for this to be investigated internally.

If you are dissatisfied with the information you have received, you have the right to ask for an internal review.

Both processes will be handled in accordance with our Trust's Freedom of Information Policy and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Internal investigation and 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: Freedom of Information Review, The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust, Clatterbridge Road, Bebington, Wirral, CH63 4JY

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of the internal investigation/review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.