

Freedom of Information Request: 0365

University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (UHB) completed a merger by acquisition of Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust (HEFT) on 1st April 2018. Due to historical differences in data collection/reporting across UHB and the former Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust this response has been provided by hospital site.

Queen Elizabeth Hospital

I am writing to you on behalf of Breast Cancer Care with a request for information, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We would be grateful if you could answer the following questions, relating to the support provided to patients with a diagnosis of secondary breast cancer under the care of your Trust.

By a diagnosis of secondary breast cancer, we mean breast cancer that has spread to other parts of the body such as the bones, lungs, liver or brain. Secondary breast cancer is also referred to as 'metastatic' or 'advanced' or 'stage 4' breast cancer.

Our questions

Holistic Needs Assessments (HNAs)

1. Do patients with secondary breast cancer have a Holistic Needs Assessment (HNA), used to plan their care, conducted at the point of diagnosis (of their secondary breast cancer) and/or as their treatment changes?

- Yes, at the point of diagnosis only
- Yes, at the point of diagnosis and as their treatment changes
- No
- Other/unsure (please provide further information if possible)

Currently these are done in clinic on an ad hoc basis. CNSs are present in the oncology clinics and can do an HNA when appropriate.

2. If yes, do the HNAs cover the following areas?

- Emotional concerns and needs

Yes

- **Physical concerns and needs**
Yes
- **Information needs**
Yes
- **Consideration of palliative care needs**
Yes

Access to a Clinical Nurse Specialist

3. **How many patients who have been diagnosed with secondary breast cancer are currently being treated by your Trust?**

The Trust does not hold this information in an accessible format and we confirm that we do not keep a database of secondary breast cancer patients.

4. **Do all patients with secondary breast cancer under the care of your Trust have access to a Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) with the appropriate skills, knowledge and experience of secondary breast cancer?**

Yes

5. **If yes, do these nurses:**

- a. **provide care to secondary breast cancer patients only?**

No

- b. **provide care to both primary and secondary breast cancer patients?**

Yes

6. **If yes, please provide the number of CNS posts that fall under each of these categories (as applicable):**

- a. **CNSs that provide care to secondary breast cancer patients only**

None

- b. **CNSs that provide care to both primary and secondary breast cancer patients**

8 (4 part time CNSs and 4 full time, one on Maternity Leave)

7. If there are CNS posts within your Trust that provide care to both primary and secondary breast cancer patients, please tell us if they:

a. work in a combined role (where the care of both primary and secondary breast cancer patients is part of their formal job description)

Yes

b. work across both areas but their formal job description only covers primary breast cancer patients

No

Information and referrals

8. At diagnosis and/or during the time they are under the care of your Trust, are patients with secondary breast cancer provided with the following information and/or referred to the following services?

- local and national secondary breast cancer support services

Yes

- specialist services for financial and employment advice

Yes

- Information on talking to those closest to them about the impact of living with secondary breast cancer

Yes

- information about support available for family members

Yes

- local palliative and supportive care services, including referral for symptom control when needed

Yes

- support and information on planning end-of-life care

Yes

Treatment Summaries

9. Do patients with secondary breast cancer receive a Treatment Summary* at the end of each significant phase of treatment?

Not specifically yet although patients can have access to letters, copy letters and access to Myhealth. We plan to implement treatment summaries over the next year or so as we will reduce follow up duration for new patients, so this could be rolled out for secondary cancer patients.

Access to Health and Wellbeing Events

10. Does your Trust offer a Health and Wellbeing event* suitable for patients with secondary breast cancer?

No

By suitable, we mean that it is adapted to be relevant to the needs of those living with secondary breast cancer. For example:

- **focuses on living with cancer, rather than adapting after finishing treatment**
- **may be more than one session, rather than a single event**
- **may include discussions on specific topics such as palliative care**

(*A Health and Wellbeing event is defined as a group education and support event which helps people to manage their physical and psychological health after a cancer diagnosis. An example of this is Breast Cancer Care's 'Living with Secondary Breast Cancer' service)

Heartlands, Good Hope and Solihull Hospital

I am writing to you on behalf of Breast Cancer Care with a request for information, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We would be grateful if you could answer the following questions, relating to the support provided to patients with a diagnosis of secondary breast cancer under the care of your Trust.

By a diagnosis of secondary breast cancer, we mean breast cancer that has spread to other parts of the body such as the bones, lungs, liver or brain. Secondary breast cancer is also referred to as 'metastatic' or 'advanced' or 'stage 4' breast cancer.

Our questions

Holistic Needs Assessments (HNAs)

1. Do patients with secondary breast cancer have a Holistic Needs Assessment (HNA), used to plan their care, conducted at the point of

diagnosis (of their secondary breast cancer) and/or as their treatment changes?

- Yes, at the point of diagnosis only
- Yes, at the point of diagnosis and as their treatment changes
- No
- Other/unsure (please provide further information if possible)

This is offered on an individual needs basis. At Good Hope Hospital, we also conduct a HNA if the patient progresses/change of treatment

2. If yes, do the HNAs cover the following areas?

- **Emotional concerns and needs**

Yes

- **Physical concerns and needs**

Yes

- **Information needs**

Yes

- **Consideration of palliative care needs**

Face to face discussion rather than on an HNA form

Access to a Clinical Nurse Specialist

3. How many patients who have been diagnosed with secondary breast cancer are currently being treated by your Trust?

The Trust does not hold this information in an accessible format and we can confirm that we do not keep a database of secondary breast cancer patients.

4. Do all patients with secondary breast cancer under the care of your Trust have access to a Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) with the appropriate skills, knowledge and experience of secondary breast cancer?

Yes, all patients with a diagnosis of primary and/or secondary breast cancer are given details of how to contact CNS as needed.

5. **If yes, do these nurses:**
- a. **provide care to secondary breast cancer patients only?**
No
 - b. **provide care to both primary and secondary breast cancer patients?**
Yes
6. **If yes, please provide the number of CNS posts that fall under each of these categories (as applicable):**
- a. **CNSs that provide care to secondary breast cancer patients only**
None
 - b. **CNSs that provide care to both primary and secondary breast cancer patients**
Solihull Hospital
4 whole time equivalents, total 5 CNSs
Birmingham Heartlands Hospital
None. All inpatient secondary breast cancer patients are seen by acute oncology or palliative care nurses.
Good Hope
3.6 whole time equivalents, 4 CNSs
7. **If there are CNS posts within your Trust that provide care to both primary and secondary breast cancer patients, please tell us if they:**
- a. **work in a combined role (where the care of both primary and secondary breast cancer patients is part of their formal job description)**
No
 - b. **work across both areas but their formal job description only covers primary breast cancer patients**
Yes

Information and referrals

8. **At diagnosis and/or during the time they are under the care of your Trust, are patients with secondary breast cancer provided with the following information and/or referred to the following services?**

- **local and national secondary breast cancer support services**
Yes
- **specialist services for financial and employment advice**
Yes
- **Information on talking to those closest to them about the impact of living with secondary breast cancer**
Yes
- **information about support available for family members**
Yes
- **local palliative and supportive care services, including referral for symptom control when needed**
Yes
- **support and information on planning end-of-life care**

This is not provided by breast care nurses but usually provided by acute or community palliative care teams.

Treatment Summaries

9. **Do patients with secondary breast cancer receive a Treatment Summary* at the end of each significant phase of treatment?**

Patients receive a copy of letters from the oncologist to GP. There is no formal end of treatment summary provided to patients.

Access to Health and Wellbeing Events

10. **Does your Trust offer a Health and Wellbeing event* suitable for patients with secondary breast cancer?**

No

By suitable, we mean that it is adapted to be relevant to the needs of those living with secondary breast cancer. For example:

- **focuses on living with cancer, rather than adapting after finishing treatment**
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(*A Health and Wellbeing event is defined as a group education and support event which helps people to manage their physical and psychological health after a cancer diagnosis. An example of this is Breast Cancer Care's 'Living with Secondary Breast Cancer' service)