

Mr Ian Paterson's breast surgery patients – an update

Since January 2014 the Trust has been undertaking a further review of all the patients who have previously been recalled, as well as expanding the scope to include other groups of breast cancer surgery patients Mr Paterson treated while operating at any of the hospitals under the Heart of England Foundation Trust.

The Trust is committed to ensuring that all of Mr Paterson's patients have been identified and that where necessary, patients are offered appointments for clinical review. Our aim is to provide the opportunity to all patients who need or want to have a review of their surgery and that we provide a safe, effective and person-centred approach for each individual.

Based on the feedback we have had from some patients who were treated by Mr Paterson, the Trust has put together the answers to some frequently asked questions for people who may have concerns about their treatment:

What tests might I need to find out if my surgery was correct?

There are a number of tests which can be carried out, including:

- physical examination
- mammogram
- chest X-ray
- ultrasound
- MRI scan
- CT scan
- biopsies

Which tests are applicable to you will very much depend on your needs and circumstances and should be decided by you and the doctor or consultant (specialising in breast cancer) who will see you.

Will someone from the Trust be contacting me about my surgery?

We are currently looking at a wider group of patients who were treated by Mr Ian Paterson. Where we need to we will be contacting patients to invite them back for an appointment with a doctor or consultant specialising in breast cancer.

Is cancer more likely to come back, does this change my prognosis?

There are many different factors which increase the risk of cancer. It is important that we take an individual approach to each patient.

Will I need any further operations?

This will be dependent on your personal circumstances and the discussions you have with the doctors, consultants and nurses.

How long will I need to be monitored for?

The Trust initially made a commitment to monitor patients who had been recalled for 10 -15 years. Again this will depend on personal circumstances and can be discussed with the clinical experts to ensure that the most appropriate approach for you is agreed.

What if I want to move, or have already moved, out of the area?

If you have informed us that you have or will be moving out of the area we will ensure that we write to the hospital which is providing your care so that they have all of the up to date information relevant to your care and treatment.

We will also request, with your permission, that we are kept up to date with your care and any treatment so that we are able to keep our records up to date.

Is any emotional support counselling available?

Yes. If you feel you need emotional support we can arrange for you to receive appropriate counselling.

Does Mr Ian Paterson still work for the Trust?

No. Mr Ian Paterson is currently excluded from the Trust pending further investigations; however we can confirm that the Trust is no longer paying Mr Paterson.

How can I be sure another surgeon won't do Mr Ian Paterson did?

The Trust commissioned an external review by Sir Ian Kennedy into the issues relating to Mr Ian Paterson.

The Trust Board has taken the recommendations from this report and is putting into place a programme of work to ensure that staff can raise issues safely and provide an environment that is safe for all our patients. If you would like more information please visit our web pages:

<http://www.heartofengland.nhs.uk/solihull-hospital/sir-ian-kennedys-review-of-breast-care-services/>

Will you be recalling more people?

The Trust is committed to ensuring that we review all the relevant information we have relating to Mr Ian Paterson's patients. We are widening the scope of

our review and if necessary any patient treated by Mr Ian Paterson will be offered an appointment for a 1-1 review.

Can I claim compensation from the Trust?

Any claim against the Trust will be dependent on many factors. It is recommended that you seek independent legal advice if you are considering making a claim.

Please note that this information is not a substitute for clinical advice and if you have any concerns please contact your GP or your current consultant who will be happy to advise.

If you have any further questions or wish to talk to someone about your care please contact Gillian Waterhouse in the first instance. She will be able to signpost you to the most appropriate person or service.

You can contact Gillian in the following ways:

E-mail – Gillian.waterhouse@heartofengland.nhs.uk

Telephone (during normal office hours) – 07805 656629