

Ref: FOI/2024/10235

Date Received: 23rd October 2024

Response Due: 20th November 2024

Date: 18th November 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 23rd October 2024, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

Please answer the questions with regards to NHS patients, i.e., excluding patients that received treatment as part of clinical trials or private healthcare.

1. How many newly diagnosed patients with chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL) have started first-line treatment in your Trust or Centre during the 6-month period February 2024 to July 2024?

Answer: 9.

2. How many of these newly diagnosed patients with CLL received chemoimmunotherapy (CIT) as first-line treatment?

CITs include fludarabine + cyclophosphamide + rituximab (FCR), fludarabine + rituximab (FR), bendamustine + rituximab (BR), bendamustine monotherapy, rituximab + cyclophosphamide + doxorubicin + vincristine + prednisolone (R-CHOP), obinutuzumab ± chlorambucil, rituximab + chlorambucil and ofatumumab

Answer: <5.

3. Please complete the table below with how many newly diagnosed patients with CLL have started first-line treatment with each of the following CITs during the 6-month period February 2024 to July 2024

- FCR (fludarabine + cyclophosphamide + rituximab)

- FR (fludarabine + rituximab)
- BR (bendamustine + rituximab)
- Bendamustine monotherapy
- RCHOP (Rituximab + cyclophosphamide + doxorubicin + vincristine + prednisolone)
- Obinutuzumab ± chlorambucil
- Rituximab + chlorambucil
- Ofatumumab
- Other – please specify

Note: this should only include newly diagnosed patients with CLL who have started first-line treatment during the 6-month window

Answer:

Treatment option	Number of newly diagnosed patients with CLL starting first line treatment during the 6-month period February 2024 to July 2024
FCR	This information is being withheld under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act. Please see below.
FR	
BR	
Bendamustine monotherapy	
R-CHOP	
Obinutuzumab ± chlorambucil	
Rituximab + chlorambucil	
Chlorambucil monotherapy	
Rituximab monotherapy	
Ofatumumab	
Other – please specify	

Please note the answers to question 3 are being withheld under section 40(2) (personal information) of the Act. This is because releasing the breakdown would make individual patients identifiable. Section 40(2) is an ‘absolute’ exemption and the Trust is not obliged to consider whether the public interest favours disclosing the information.

Section 40(2) exempts personal information from disclosure if that information relates to someone other than the applicant, and if disclosure of the information would, amongst other things, contravene one of the data protection principles in Article 5 of the UK GDPR. In this case, I believe disclosure would contravene the first data protection principle, which provides that personal data must be processed fairly and lawfully.

The Trust has a policy of not releasing information when the data involved is less than 5. This is because we feel that such low numbers could make the individuals involved identifiable and therefore may cause undue harm and distress.

To disclose this information would:

- Contravene the Data Protection Act principles in that it would amount to unfair and possibly unlawful processing, as there was a legitimate expectation by the third parties that this information would remain confidential, and
- Disclosure may cause damage or distress to the individual(s) involved, and that damage or distress would be unwarranted (section 10 of the DPA).

If you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department via the email address provided. If we do not hear from you within 40 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hazel Hendriksen', with a long, sweeping underline.

Hazel Hendriksen
Divisional Director of Operations for Specialist Services

PLEASE NOTE:

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Suite 9, Buckingham Row, Brick Kiln Lane, Wigan, WN1 1XX.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

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

Helpline number: 0303 123 111