

Ref. No: 1116  
Date: 02/08/24  
Subject: Family history services

## REQUEST

Please find attached a Freedom of Information (FOI) request regarding family history services within your trust.

## RESPONSE

Q1. 1. Does your trust have a familial cancer service or services (for example, as part of a breast care team, family history clinic, or breast clinic) that manage people who could be at an increased risk of breast cancer because of a history of the disease or related cancers in their family? (Yes/No)

- a) If no, please answer question 2
- b) If yes, please answer questions 3-5.

**Response:** Yes.

Q2. If your trust does not have a familial cancer service, where do you refer patients who need to have their familial breast cancer risk assessed?

**Response:** N/A

Q3 If your trust does have a familial cancer service, could you please provide us with:

- a) The number of referrals your unit has received for assessment of possible familial breast cancer risk for each of the following periods:

Time period	Number of referrals
1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021-31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022	
1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022-31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	
1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023-31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	

**Response:** We've been given the total for the period – 241. the report Is included all patients who had attended FH clinic and were also referred from secondary care.

- a) How many patients were identified as moderate risk\* of breast cancer for each of the following periods:

Time period	Number of moderate risk patients
1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021-31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022	
1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022-31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	
1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023-31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	

**Response:** Section 12 has been applied to this question.

Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act, Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust does not have to comply with a request where it is estimated that the cost of compliance would exceed the appropriate limit of £450. The appropriate limit is specified within the regulations and represents the estimated cost of one person spending 2½ working days answering the request, either wholly or partially.

- a) How many patients were identified as high risk\*\* of breast cancer for each of the following periods:  
b)

Time period	Number of high-risk patients
1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021-31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022	
1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022-31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	
1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023-31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	

**Response:** Section 12 has been applied to this question.

Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act, Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust does not have to comply with a request where it is estimated that the cost of compliance would exceed the appropriate limit of £450. The appropriate limit is specified within the

regulations and represents the estimated cost of one person spending 2½ working days answering the request, either wholly or partially.

Q4. Which services do you offer to patients who are assessed as being at increased risk?

**Response:** Our symptomatic clinics are risk rated according to patients age, but not the family history clinics if the patient does not have cancer. Pts may be risk rated if they are sent for genetic testing and depending on their results.

Q5. For people referred into your family history service, does your unit have any additional inclusion criteria it uses to determine who can receive different types of support, in addition to the eligibility criteria outlined in [NICE CG164 guidance](#), and if so, what are those criteria for:

Undertaking an initial family history risk assessment	
Access to risk-reduction interventions, both chemoprevention and mastectomy	
Access to enhanced surveillance screening	

**Response:** If a patient is of a high risk according to their genetic testing, they may be offered risk reducing mastectomy.