

Ref. No: 0943
Date: 17/05/24
Subject: Skin Cancer Treatment Times

REQUEST

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please can you provide me with information on skin cancer treatment times.

1. The number of patients who were on a waiting list at your Trust to start treatment following an urgent referral for any type of skin cancer for the each of the following financial years a) 2019/2020, b) 2020/21, c) 2021/22, d) 2022/2023 e) 2023/24?
2. The number of patients who were on a waiting list at your Trust following an urgent referral for any type of skin cancer who waited longer than i) 62-days, ii) six-months, iii) 12-months to start treatment for the each of the following financial years a) 2019/2020, b) 2020/21, c) 2021/22, d) 2022/2023 e) 2023/24?
3. The longest a patient waited who was on a waiting list at your Trust following an urgent referral for any type of skin cancer to start treatment in the financial year 2023/24?

RESPONSE

St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust became a single legal entity known as Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust on 1st July 2023, as such parts of the response may be provided in two sections relating to the hospital sites of each of the legacy organisations.

Please note that the data does not include basal cell carcinomas as it is not a mandatory requirement to monitor and report their waiting times.

1. The number of patients who were on a waiting list at your Trust to start treatment following an urgent referral for any type of skin cancer for the each of the following financial years a) 2019/2020, b) 2020/21, c) 2021/22, d) 2022/2023 e) 2023/24?

Years	St Helens & Knowsley	Southport & Ormskirk
2019/20	453	185
2020/21	552	190
2021/22	598	244
2022/23	722	185
2023/24	731	163

2. The number of patients who were on a waiting list at your Trust following an urgent referral for any type of skin cancer who waited longer than i) 62-days, ii) six-months, iii) 12-months to start treatment for the each of the following financial years a) 2019/2020, b) 2020/21, c) 2021/22, d) 2022/2023 e) 2023/24?

Year	Wait (Longer Than)	St Helen's & Knowsley	Southport & Ormskirk
2019/20	62 days	47	<5
	6 months	0	0
	12 months	0	0
2020/21	62 days	58	12
	6 months	0	0
	12 months	0	0
2021/22	62 days	61	<5
	6 months	0	<5
	12 months	0	0
2022/23	62 days	107	24
	6 months	0	0
	12 months	0	0
2023/24	62 days	151	24
	6 months	0	0
	12 months	0	0

Section 40: personal information

We are unable to provide precise figures when those figures refer to individuals in volumes of 5 or less due to the risk that individuals will be re-identified, as we are required to protect their identity under the General Data Protection Regulations & Data Protection Act 2018. In such circumstances Section 40(2) and Section 40(3) of the Freedom of Information Act apply. In this case, our view is that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle which states that personal data should be processed "lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner". It is the lawful aspect of this principle which, in our view, would be breached by

disclosure, and in such circumstances, Section 40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure.

- 3. The longest a patient waited who was on a waiting list at your Trust following an urgent referral for any type of skin cancer to start treatment in the financial year 2023/24?**

160 days