

Request title: Cancer (secondary breast)

Date of Response: 31st March 2016

Further to your Freedom of Information request, the Trust has answered your questions in the order they appear in your request.

Request and reply

As I am sure you are aware, since 2013, it has been mandatory for all hospital trusts in England to collect data on diagnoses of secondary (metastatic) breast cancer. This should form part of your regular submissions to the Cancer Outcomes and Services Dataset (COSD).

This information is important as it helps to identify the numbers and needs of people living with this disease. It means that Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust and local commissioners have the right information to plan effective services to meet your local patients' needs.

However, on a national level, no such data has been published to date, meaning that there is no accurate figure for the number of people diagnosed with secondary breast cancer each year.

Breast Cancer Care is aware that some hospital trusts are collecting this data as they are mandated to do, while others have hit barriers to achieving this.

I would appreciate if you could let me know the following information:

1. Is Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust routinely collecting data on secondary breast cancer?

Yes – as part of the mandated COSD dataset the Trust collects information on all secondary breast cancers diagnosed and treated at the RDE. The Trust has also created a local database for the breast care nurses to record their interaction/involvement with metastatic breast cancer patients.

2. If so, how many people were diagnosed with the disease within the Trust in the last twelve months (or for the latest period available)? These should include

(a) those who were diagnosed with secondary breast cancer at their first presentation; and
(b) those for whom their primary breast cancer has progressed and spread to other parts of the body. Please also include the time period this data refers to.

a. 12 patients were diagnosed at the RDE on first presentation in 2015

b. 33 patients were diagnosed with progression to metastatic disease in 2015 by the RDE.