

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_570_23

You asked:

I am writing to you to request information under the Freedom of Information Act.

We are currently interested in finding out more information about the role of a Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) within Welsh health boards. We want to make sure that people with leukaemia are given the correct access to a CNS as we believe this role, and the support provided, is extremely valuable to those who have received a diagnosis and are being treated for leukaemia.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could provide as much detail as possible to the following requests in writing via email or post.

NB: All of the following requests are relating to the treatment of adults (16 years +) only.

The information we request is from your most recent data.

1, Which haematological cancers are treated at your health board?

Our Health Board treats all haematological cancers, supported by a tertiary centre where appropriate.

2, How many blood cancer patients are under the care of your health board?

One hundred and thirty-five new cancers were diagnosed and treated by our team between October 2022 and September 2023. Due to the incurable nature of many conditions, haematology patients generally stay with the service for life, (it is unusual for patients to be treated and discharged from the service). Consequently, the Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) caseload is approximately 560 patients when including all the patients on long term follow up and surveillance.

3, Total number of haematological Clinical Nurse Specialists are in the health board?

We have two full time Clinical Nurse Specialists supported by a full time band 4 navigator post. Our CNSs support all haematological cancer patients, we do not have tumour site specific CNSs

4, Total number of leukaemia specific CNSs are in the health board?

- **If you do have leukaemia specific CNSs in the health board, how many leukaemia patients are there per leukaemia CNS's?**
- **Do have myeloid and lymphoid specific CNSs and if so, how many of each?**

Please see response to question 3.

5, Are haematological/ blood cancer CNSs required to undertake normal ward duties?

Our haematology CNSs are not required to work on the ward.

6, Have you measured patient access to CNSs within the health board? If so, what was the outcome?

We have not specifically measured patient access to a CNSs. The aim is for all patients to have contact with the CNSs and to be given keyworker information. Also for each patient to be offered an holistic needs assessment. The team keep local data on that for their own use.

7, Do you have, or plan to have any funding in place for training more haematology or blood cancer specific CNSs?

There is a long-term plan to increase the CNS team further, funding dependant.