

Ref. No: 023150421
From: Commercial
Date: 15/04/21
Subject: Melanoma Skin Cancer information

REQUEST

Please could you provide the following information in relation to your delivery of care, for those patients newly diagnosed with Melanoma cancer at your Trust.

If you could pass this to your 'Skin Cancer Clinic' or relevant department to complete, I would appreciate this.

1. Within your NHS Trust could you confirm what 'follow up regime' you normally provide for newly diagnosed patients by Melanoma Stage (IA-IIC) and the number of years (1 to 5) the follow up continues for, in line with your clinical protocols? To help with completion we have inserted a table below. Or please provide back in excel if easier.

Melanoma Stage at diagnosis	No. follow up visits in 1st Year	No.
follow up visits in 2nd Year	No. follow up visits in 3rd Year	No.
follow up visits in 4th Year	No. follow up visits in 5th Year	

IA
IB
IIA
IIB
IIC

2. Could you please provide a copy of the latest service specification for your Melanoma skin cancer service at the Trust, which shows the care pathway that you provide? Normally found under 'Schedule 2' of the Standard contract in place, with your commissioner – **attached**

3. Could you please confirm if you use any 'send away dermatopathology services' within your NHS Trust? A send away or referral service is one where the pathology work is contracted out to a third party laboratory.

4. Could you please confirm for your Trust in 2018/19, the following numbers of newly diagnosed Melanoma skin cancer patients and the number of these who have received a subsequent Sentinel Lymph Node biopsy by Melanoma Stage?

To help with the completion, we have inserted a table below for ease.

Stage	Total Patients reviewed	Total Sentinel lymph nodes completed
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ALL

IA

IB

IIA

IIB

IIC

Please note: To help with this question 4, the OPCS code for Sentinel lymph node is 'O14.2 + ICD-10 code C43 Malignant melanoma of skin', then supported by the cancer stage.

RESPONSE

1)

IA - Follow up 12 months – every 3 months – 4 visits

IB - Total follow up 5 years. For 3 years every 3 months, then 2 years every 6 months

IIA - Total follow up 5 years. For 3 years every 3 months, then 2 years every 6 months

IIB - Total follow up 5 years. For 3 years every 3 months, then 2 years every 6 months

IIC - Total follow up 5 years. For 3 years every 3 months, then 2 years every 6 months

2) See attached

3) No

4) Newly diagnosed Melanoma skin cancers who had a SNLB, broken down by stage.

Staging	Did they receive an SNLB?		Grand Total
	Yes	No	
0		*	*
1A	18	131	149
1B	53	37	90
2A	17	7	24
2B	11	22	33
2C	*	11	16
3		*	*
3A	15	*	16
3B	*		*
3C	12	*	17
4	*	*	*
(blank)	*	18	21

* **Please note:** 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 sections 40(2) and (3) of the Freedom of Information Act apply. In this case, our view is that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle. This 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. In such circumstances section 40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure.

This information is taken from Somerset Cancer Registry, and includes patients diagnosed, at St Helens and Knowsley NHS Trust, with a primary melanoma skin cancer.

The list of patients was compared with a list of patients who have been coded on Careflow as having received a Sentinel Lymph Node biopsy (SNLB).