



South Tees Clinical Commissioning Group

North Ormesby Health Village
1st Floor

14 Trinity Mews
North Ormesby
Middlesbrough
TS3 6AL

Tel: 01642 263030

Email: stccg.enquiries@nhs.net

Website: www.southteescg.nhs.uk

Caroline Breheny
Scrutiny Officer
On behalf of the Chair of Middlesbrough Council's Health Scrutiny panel
C/o Town Hall
Middlesbrough
TS1 9FT

2 July 2019

Dear Caroline,

Please find detailed below responses to the queries raised following discussions held between Cllr Eddie Dryden and yourself with service users who have experienced care, primarily in relation to the treatment of breast cancer, at the James Cook University Hospital.

Collection of Data of recurrent and secondary cancer

We have discussed this with the relevant Service Manager for General Surgery and Urology at James Cook University Hospital who has received confirmation from the Cancer Services Team that data for recurrent and secondary cancer is collected and reported on a routine basis.

Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS's) for Secondary Breast Cancer

Whilst we acknowledge the excellent work of the CNS's, currently in South Tees we have 2 breast care nurses who predominantly manage what is routinely described as the front end of the pathway. This includes 2 Week Wait clinics, post diagnosis surgical planning and post-surgery as well as psychological, emotional and health & wellbeing support.

The breast care nurses carry their own caseload and manage nurse led follow up. Their job plans also include supporting initial 'one stop clinics' at North Tees Foundation Trust.

At this time the caseload of the CNS's would not support the formal routine management of secondary breast cancer patients. Whilst we agree this is less than ideal the breast team have implemented a pathway whereby they will contact the CNS's should they need support with a particular patient. When this happens these patients will remain on the caseload and should the patient feel they need to contact them directly for help / advice, this is available.

We will continue to work with the Trust to understand opportunities for expanding the role and caseload of the CNS nurses over time.

Post Mastectomy Care

The patient group expressed concerns that it was inappropriate that patients who had undergone a mastectomy were moved to a General Surgical ward for post operative care and recovery. We can confirm that it is general practice that patients return to a General Surgical ward or Surgical Day Unit following Breast surgery, these areas are suitably staffed with healthcare workers with the right skills to support the recovery of this patient group.

It is our hope and expectation that all patients stay in the hospital environment for as short a time as is possible, and that the Trust makes every effort to ensure that all patients are treated with privacy and dignity at all times. We can also confirm that the trust does employ a Breast Outreach nurse who is tasked and supporting these patients in their own homes and community settings post operatively.

The CCG will continue to work with the Trust to ensure that the services patients receive are, where possible, in line with best practice and that we collectively continue to listen to the views and concerns of the patients we serve whilst being mindful of any national guidance. Should you require any further assurance in relation to any of these points please do not hesitate to contact me direct.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Blair', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Craig Blair

Director of Strategic Commissioning and Delivery