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Ymddiriedolaeth GIG
Prifysgol Felindre
Velindre University
NHS Trust



Gwasanaeth Gwaed Cymru
Welsh Blood Service



Canolfan Ganser Felindre
Velindre Cancer Centre

Pencadlys Ymddiriedolaeth GIG
Prifysgol Felindre
Velindre University NHS Trust Headquarters

2 Cwrt Charnwood
Heol Billingsley
Parc Nantgarw
Caerdydd/Cardiff
CF15 7QZ

Ffôn/Phone : (029) 20196161
<https://velindre.nhs.wales>

Date: 27th February 2023
Ref: CORP 2023-010

Dear *****

Request under Freedom of Information Act 2000 – CORP 2023 - 010

Thank you for your request for information in which we received on 25/01/2023.

Your Request:

Under the freedom of information (FOI) Act 2000, I would like to request the following information regarding your NHS Trusts/Boards:

- *What are your current skin cancer patient clinical pathway guidelines e.g., from initial patient symptoms in a GP setting to specialist referral as well as treatment and follow-up procedures and protocol. Attached are two outdated CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) pathway guidelines for reference.*
- *Does your skin cancer pathway include remote patient-clinic interactions (as opposed to face-to-face interactions), Yes or No and if yes, elaborate what they are and what stage in the pathway they're used e.g., teledermatology (the use of digital photography to assess patient lesions) at the GP stage.*
- *What were your latest skin cancer pathway guidelines in 2019/2020 prior to the COVID-19 pandemic (announced as a pandemic by WHO on 11 March 2020).*

If possible, the preferred format of this information is electronic word document (.doc/.docx) or PDF.

Velindre University Trust response is shown below:

Mae Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Prifysgol Felindre yn hapus i dderbyn gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg.
Velindre University NHS Trust is happy to receive communication in Welsh or English.





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“What are your current skin cancer patient clinical pathway guidelines e.g., from initial patient symptoms in a GP setting to specialist referral as well as treatment and follow-up procedures and protocol.

Attached are two outdated CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) pathway guidelines for your information.

Radiotherapy

An updated Trust Skin Radiotherapy protocol is expected to be released shortly, however, until then, the Trust continues to use the current Radiotherapy protocol which is at Enclosure 2.

SACT

Velindre Cancer Centre (VCC) is a non-surgical oncological centre for skin cancer, as such we only receive appropriate referrals from secondary care dermatology departments. This is because they are typically best placed to answer questions regarding an initial referral from General Practice to Secondary Care.

The Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) is the specialist fora where all relevant patients are discussed and patients who typically fall in the stage 2b/3 3 and 4 melanoma (and advanced non melanoma skin cancer) patients are referred to Velindre Cancer Centre. All early-stage patients remain under the care of dermatology within Secondary Care with input from plastics if necessary

“Does your skin cancer pathway include remote patient-clinic interactions (as opposed to face-to-face interactions), Yes or No and if yes, elaborate what they are and what stage in the pathway they’re used e.g., teledermatology (the use of digital photography to assess patient lesions) at the GP stage”.

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Radiotherapy

Remote patient-clinic interactions are not in place for skin radiotherapy, although some patients request a virtual consultation for follow-up.

SACT

Those patients who are well established on SACT can and are followed up remotely. The Trust has an almost 50-50 split in terms of face-to-face and remote consultations.

“What were your latest skin cancer pathway guidelines in 2019/2020 prior to the COVID-19 pandemic (announced as a pandemic by WHO on 11 March 2020). If possible, the preferred format of this information is electronic word document (.doc/.docx) or PDF”.

The 2016 protocol is attached as a separate enclosure to this letter in a PDF format (Enclosure 2). Please note that the pathway is in the process of update, but as it is not yet a finalised and approved document it is not able to be released under Section 22 of the Act – *“Information intended for future publication”*.

Radiotherapy

The Trust is currently utilising the 2012 CCG Skin Cancer Pathway Guidelines, a copy of which is at Enclosure 1.

SACT

Please note that comments below are only related to those patients who are referred to Velindre for non-surgical therapies.

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The Trust follows NICE melanoma guidelines in how we manage these patients. Best pathway decisions for patients are again discussed in the MDT for skin cancer. They can be complex and require multi-disciplinary management with specialisms that are spread across a wide geographical area-with the plastic surgery hub based in Swansea and the Cancer Centre in Cardiff and dermatology across the various Southeast Wales Health Boards.

A typical patient journey would be an initial referral from GP to Secondary Care Dermatology in Health Boards. Once the skin cancer (e.g., melanoma) is diagnosed, then they are referred to Morryston Plastics Surgery for Wide Local Excision (WLE) and Sentinel Node Biopsy (SNB). The patient is then depending on the SNB status referred to Velindre for adjuvant therapy.

If on the other hand dermatology perform a CT scan on a melanoma patient and find stage 4 diagnosis, that patient is directly referred to Velindre for SACT.

I trust this answers your request for information, however, should you not be satisfied with the information supplied or the process of supplying it, you have a right to complain and request a review.

You should forward your complaint to:-

Mr Ian Bevan via FOI.VUNHST@wales.nhs.uk
Head of Information Governance
Velindre University NHS Trust
2, Charnwood Court
Heol Billingsley
Parc Nantgarw
Cardiff / Caerdydd
CF15 7QZ
Tel / Ffon - 029 20196161

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Should you wish to take your complaint further, if you are still unhappy with the decision after review, you can contact the:-

Information Commissioner's Office - Wales
2nd Floor,
Churchill House,
Churchill Way,
Cardiff,
CF10 2HH
Telephone: 0330 414 6421
email: wales@ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Lauren Fear
Director of Corporate Governance and Chief of Staff
Velindre University NHS Trust
2 Charnwood Court
Heol Billingsley
Parc Nantgarw
Cardiff
CF15 7QZ

Enclosures:

1. CCG Skin Cancer Pathway Guidelines - 2012
2. Skin Malignancies Protocol - 2016

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