

Dear xxx

Freedom of Information request: Metastatic Breast Cancer (CORP 2025 – 043)

Thank you for your request for information which the Trust received on 26th February 2025

Your Request:

Patients

1. *How many patients at Velindre Cancer Centre with a diagnosis of metastatic breast cancer are currently being treated?*
2. *Are Metastatic breast patients discussed at MDT?*
3. *How does Velindre Cancer Centre breast cancer MDT record and track metastatic breast cancer on the Welsh Clinical Portal and the Welsh Patient Administration System? If precise numbers are unavailable, what steps have been taken to improve data collection on metastatic breast cancer patients?*

Nurses

1. *How many dedicated metastatic breast cancer nurses are currently in post at Velindre Cancer Centre?*
2. *Do all patients at Velindre Cancer Centre with metastatic breast cancer have access to a dedicated Metastatic CNS with the appropriate skills, knowledge and experience of metastatic breast cancer?*
3. *Do all Metastatic patients receive a Holistic Needs assessment?*
4. *How are Metastatic patients supported in the Centre?*

Treatment Summaries and Red Flags

1. *Does Velindre Cancer Centre inform all primary breast cancer patients at end of treatment of the red flag symptoms to be aware of?*
2. *What red flag infographic do you use?*
3. *How many patients with primary breast cancer in the past year received treatment summaries?*
4. *Does Velindre Cancer Centre have a formal policy in place to ensure all metastatic breast cancer patients receive treatment summaries?*
5. *What is the formal system to ensure GPs are aware of the red flags for their patients who have had breast cancer?*

By a diagnosis of metastatic breast cancer, I mean breast cancer that has spread to other parts of the body, such as the bones, lungs, liver or brain. Metastatic breast cancer is also referred to as 'secondary' or 'advanced' or 'stage 4' breast cancer.

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Please find the Trust's response below:

Patients

1. How many patients at Velindre Cancer Centre with a diagnosis of metastatic breast cancer are currently being treated?

Approximately 660 patients.

2. Are Metastatic breast patients discussed at MDT?

Yes, there is a dedicated metastatic breast MDT.

3. How does Velindre Cancer Centre breast cancer MDT record and track metastatic breast cancer on the Welsh Clinical Portal and the Welsh Patient Administration System? If precise numbers are unavailable, what steps have been taken to improve data collection on metastatic breast cancer patients?

This information is currently captured on different systems including Chemocare. We are working to standardise the recording of metastatic breast status on the relevant modules on Welsh Clinical Portal. This includes resourcing the recording of existing metastatic patients on WCP retrospectively as well as agreeing a process for all future patients to be recorded correctly.

Nurses

1. How many dedicated metastatic breast cancer nurses are currently in post at Velindre Cancer Centre?

The Trust has <6 nurses dedicated metastatic breast cancer.

Where the figure provided is less than 6, and where simple calculations could identify fields that contain less than 6, the Trust has applied an exemption under Section 40(2) (personal data) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This is because the Trust believes there is a potential risk of individuals being able to be identified if the figures were disclosed.

2. Do all patients at Velindre Cancer Centre with metastatic breast cancer have access to a dedicated Metastatic CNS with the appropriate skills, knowledge and experience of metastatic breast cancer?

Yes.

3. Do all Metastatic patients receive a Holistic Needs assessment?

All newly diagnosed metastatic breast cancer patients (Since August 2024 when the SBC CNS

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clinic was established) and that are discussed via the Secondary Breast Cancer MDT will be offered a holistic needs assessment. Historical metastatic breast cancer patients may not have had a holistic needs assessment. If requested by the patient or consultant, a holistic needs assessment is offered for these patients.

4. How are Metastatic patients supported in the Centre?

Within the Trust, all patients have access to a CNS, the CNS is the assigned keyworker, patients also have access to a cancer navigator who can support and signpost patients for specific needs that they have such as psychology or welfare issues.

- Since August 2024, there has been a weekly nurse led secondary breast cancer clinic that sees patients to analyse their holistic needs assessment and provide any signposting/ referrals identified.
- Weekly nurse led secondary breast cancer telephone clinic offering structured ongoing support for patients seen via the secondary breast cancer CNS clinic.
- Dedicated secondary breast cancer CNS available Monday to Friday to support oncology clinics and see patients as needs are identified in these clinics.
- Telephone support is accessible daily Monday to Friday 8 – 4 for the secondary breast cancer CNS.
- Health and Wellbeing days have commenced with the support of Macmillan to provide information to secondary breast cancer patients regarding living well with cancer.

The questions relating to **Treatment Summaries and Red Flags** are not relevant to the Trust as treatment summaries for the early breast cancer patients are sent out by the patient's local/referring Health Board.

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. Please note that you must submit a request for a review within 40 days of the date of this letter.

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

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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

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2 Charnwood Court
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