

Luton & Dunstable University Hospital  
Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust  
Lewsey Road  
Luton  
LU4 0DZ

Bedford Hospital  
Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust  
Kempston Road  
Bedford  
MK42 9DJ

14/01/2021

Dear Requester,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request which was received within the Trust.

In accordance with S.1 (1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), I can confirm that we do hold the information relevant to your request. FOI 140

#### **Response from Luton and Dunstable University Hospital**

1. Did you suspend your MRI before biopsy service for patients with suspected prostate cancer as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?

**No**

2. If yes, have you now resumed MRI before biopsy for patients with suspected prostate cancer?

**N/A**

3. Do you currently use a pre-MRI clinical triage for patients with suspected prostate cancer? By pre-MRI clinical triage, we mean a process, often Clinical Nurse Specialist led, that determines patient suitability for MRI before biopsy

**Yes**

4. Has your radiology department introduced any new MRI exclusion criteria for patients with suspected prostate cancer as a result of COVID-19?

No

5. If yes, do you plan to maintain any of these exclusion criteria once restrictions to limit patients' COVID-19 risk are lifted?

N/A

6. Did you stop conducting biopsies for patients with suspected prostate cancer as a result of COVID-19 infection risks?

No

7. If yes, have you resumed biopsy services for patients with suspected prostate cancer?

NA

8. Do you offer transperineal biopsy under local anaesthetic?

Yes

9. Following an MRI scan for suspected prostate cancer, what criteria do you use to select patients for biopsy? Please include all that apply: **this needs to be answered by the clinical team**

a. Patients with a PI-RADSs or Likert score of 1 or greater

b. Patients with a PI-RADS or Likert score of 2 or greater

c. Patients with a PI-RADS or Likert score of 3 or greater

d. Patients with a PI-RADS or Likert score of 3 or greater, but only if PI-RADS or Likert score 3 patients have other clinical indications (such as age, ethnicity, PSA density) that make them higher risk

**We would generally biopsy anyone with a PSA density that is raised above threshold (in general above 0.1-0.12) irrespective of the MRI findings. Any PiRADS IV or V would be offered a biopsy irrespective of the PSA (unless metastatic with clear clinical diagnosis and oncology do not feel biopsy would aid management e.g. for trial eligibility). If PiRADS III it depends on the PSA density, risk factors ( e.g. ethnicity), PSA density as mentioned and also if there is a focal lesion. We have clinically significant prostate cancer with PiRADS III and II so we do not rely on MRI alone to exclude prostate cancer as the negative predictive power is insufficient in our experience.**

**.Patients with a PI-RADS or Likert score of 4 or greater**

**We do not offer MRI before biopsy**

**We do not currently biopsy patients**

10. Did you delay radiotherapy treatment for prostate cancer patients as a result of COVID-19?

N/A (please specify:) **we do not offer radiotherapy this is managed by MVCC**

11. If yes, have you cleared your backlog for prostate cancer radiotherapy treatment?

**N/A – We did not delay prostate cancer radiotherapy treatment**

12. Did you delay radical prostatectomy for prostate cancer patients as a result of COVID-19?

N/A (please specify:) **this is completed at Lister hospital**

13. If yes, have you cleared your radical prostatectomy backlog?

**N/A – We did not delay radical prostatectomy for prostate cancer patients**

14. To address your backlog did or are you using a protocol to risk stratify patients and prioritise patients with high-risk and locally advanced prostate cancer for treatment within 3 months?

**. No, we did not have a sufficient backlog to require patient prioritisation**

15. Does your protocol apply to new patients with high-risk and locally advanced prostate cancer with the intention to radically treat them within 3 months of diagnosis?

**. N/A - We do not have a protocol for patient prioritisation**

16. Do you have prostate cancer Personalised Stratified Follow Up (PSFU) protocols in place?

## **We are in the process of developing PSFU protocols**

17. If Yes, do you have a digital remote monitoring system in place for follow up?

a. Yes (Please specify the name of the system used: e.g My Medical Record, Patient Knows Best)

**No**

18. If no, do you plan to implement a digital remote monitoring system for follow up?

a. **Yes - (Please specify the name of the system you plan to implement: , Patient Knows Best) – this is infoflex compatible**

19. Which of the following criteria are part of your follow up protocols? (please mark all that apply:)

- a. Patients have access to a Support Worker who acts as their key worker for the duration of their follow up care.
- b. Patients have access to an online patient service that allows them to check test results, complete assessments, view patient information and message their clinical team.
- c. Patients attend a 4-hour supported self-management workshop with a group of 8 to 10 men to develop knowledge, skills and confidence to self-manage their condition

**Patients do not need to attend routine appointments unless an issue arises.**

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Please note that the Trust has a formal internal review and complaints process which is managed by the Information Governance Manager/Data Protection Officer. Should you have any concerns with our response, you can make a formal request for an internal review. Requests *for internal review* should be submitted within three months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter, and should be addressed to:

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Or by emailing [bhn-tr.foibedfordshirehospitals@nhs.net](mailto:bhn-tr.foibedfordshirehospitals@nhs.net). This option is available to you for up to three calendar months from the date your response was issued.

If you are not satisfied with the Trust review under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Officer (ICO) for a review of your appeal decision. The ICO can be contacted at: ICO, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF  
[www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

Yours sincerely,

*IG/FOI Coordinator*

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