

Progress in the delivery of oncology services for Sandwell and West Birmingham

We continue to work constructively with our colleagues at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals (SWBH) to ensure the safe transfer of all of their remaining patients, who are under the care of an oncologist, over to our care at University Hospitals Birmingham (UHB).

The transfers of the lung, urology, upper-GI, and colorectal oncology patients have been completed and we are now tracking each of these patients to ensure that they attend their appointments when they are due. The transfer of breast cancer patients is well underway, and the booking processes will be concluded shortly. We are also ready to commence the transfer of the gynaecological cancer patients (for non-surgical oncology) as planned.

The below table illustrates how many patients have been referred to UHB for their ongoing care at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Transfer Phase	Transfer Start	Transferred	Yet to transfer
1: Lung	13 th November	119	0
2: Urology & UGI	4 th December	595	0
3: Colorectal	8 th January	104	0
4: Breast	5 th February	595	98
5: Gynae	19 th March	0	465
Total		1412	564

The number of breast cancer patients, transferring under the care of an oncologist, is subject to further audit and validation for final confirmation. The numbers of gynaecological cancer patients will be confirmed when that service begins to transfer from 19th March.

The transfer of the breast cancer patients will be concluded when issues of research trials governance and resourcing are addressed. Until that point of transfer for patients in research studies, expected to be in the coming weeks, the patients remain safely under the ongoing care of an oncologist seeing these patients at SWBH. This is to ensure that neither the trial nor patient care is compromised.

Some breast cancer patients have experienced delays in receiving appointment dates, and we are addressing the causes of this. Significantly, issues have related to availability of patient records and the timeliness of these being made available. The teams across both UHB and SWBH have reviewed each patient to ensure that care management plans are known and enacted accordingly. The teams continue to communicate well, resolving issues as and when they arise. The hard work of the teams continues to ensure that no delays to any patients' treatment occur. Although there have been some treatment deferrals reported, all have been necessary on

clinical grounds or are due to patient choice (i.e. none have been reported associated with the transfer process itself).

We look forward to hearing commissioner plans for the future provision of non-surgical oncology for the population of Sandwell and West Birmingham in due course.

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