

## FOI - 8177 Breast Cancer follow ups

I am keen to understand more about how Personalised Stratified Follow Up (PSFU) is being delivered at a Trust level, as it relates to breast cancer.

At the end of their hospital-based treatment, all primary breast cancer patients used to be offered - in addition to yearly mammograms for suitable patients - an annual clinical appointment for a period of five years, known as Routine Follow Up. In recent years, there has been a move away from Routine Follow Up and towards Personalised Stratified Follow Up (PSFU) at the end of hospital-based treatment. PSFU would give the option of Patient Initiated follow-up (PIFU) or Routine Follow Up - with both pathways continuing to offer annual mammograms for suitable patients. While the terms PSFU and PIFU are sometimes used interchangeably, for the questions below PSFU is being used to mean the overarching approach which encompasses the specific options of Routine Follow Up and PIFU. Note that sometimes other terms are used instead of PSFU or PIFU, e.g. supported self-management follow up, stratified follow up or open access follow up.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would appreciate it if you could respond to the below questions. *Please use an X in the boxes to indicate your answer when required or provide numerical data where requested. Note that some questions are open questions and some ask for copies of documents*

*The questions in this request all relate to the PSFU pathway for primary breast cancer patients.*

### Key Relevant Documents

1. Does your Trust have a Standard Operating Procedure - also referred to as a PSFU Protocol - that covers the PSFU pathway for breast cancer?

Yes	X
No	
Don't Know	

**If yes, please share your current, or most recent, version of this Standard Operating Procedure/PSFU Protocol.**

2. Are all hospitals that form part of your Trust following the processes set out in the Standard Operating Procedure/PFSU Protocol for breast cancer?

Yes	X
No	
Don't Know	

**If no, please send the breast cancer related Standard Operating Procedure/PSFU Protocol of each hospital in the Trust**

### Information provided about breast cancer signs and symptoms

This section relates to the information given to women about signs and symptoms of primary breast cancer and signs and symptoms of secondary breast cancer.

3. At the end of hospital-based treatment do you provide primary breast cancer patients with information about the signs and symptoms of primary breast cancer?

Yes - for all patients	X (within their treatment summary and SSMP booklet)
Yes – but not consistently	
No	

If yes- please provide a copy of the information provided or a link to the information if it is available online. If this information is part of a longer document please provide the full document.

4. At the end of hospital-based treatment, do you provide primary breast cancer patients with information about the signs and symptoms of secondary breast cancer?

Yes - for all patients	X (within their treatment summary and SSMP booklet)
Yes – but not consistently	
No	

If yes- please provide a copy of the information provided or a link to the information if it is available online. If this information is part of a longer document please provide the full document.

### Number of patients

5. How many patients did you treat for primary breast cancer that finished their hospital-based treatment in each of the Financial Years 2022-23 and 2023- 2024?

	Number of Patients
2022-2023	382
2023-2024	277

6. For each of the Financial Years 2022-23 and 2023-24, of the primary breast cancer patients that completed hospital-based treatment, please provide an estimate of what proportion were stratified to each follow up pathway?

- a) A PIFU pathway
- b) A Routine Follow Up pathway

If you can provide the figures split between the age under 45 category and age 45 and over category that would be useful but if the information is not readily available by age, please provide for all ages combined.

	% of patients					
	2022-2023			2023-24		
	Under 45	45 and over	All ages	Under 45	45 and over	All ages
<b>PIFU</b>			167 patients			251 patients
<b>Routine Follow Up</b>						

We cannot provide this information as although we know all breast cancer patients on a PIFU pathway are logged and tracked, we cannot differentiate between the 2 pathways, and for cancer and non-cancer breast issues.

- 7. At the end of hospital-based treatment, is there a set period of time during which all patients in the Trust receive Routine Follow Up, with the decision between a Routine Follow Up pathway and a PIFU pathway being taken at a later date?

Yes- all patients receive routine follow up for a set period of time at the end of hospital- based treatment	Normally 6 months post treatment, then discharge into SSMP. However this varies based on whether they are discharged from a surgical or oncology pathway.
No- patients are immediately placed on Routine Follow Up or PIFU	

If yes, which hospitals offer this and for each hospital how long is the set period of time?

### Description of the pathway

We are hoping to understand in more detail how the breast cancer PIFU pathway works and how people are able to make contact when they have a concern. If you are providing a Standard Operating Procedure/PFSU Protocol as part of your response, you only need to respond to questions 8, 9, 10 and 11 if the answers to these questions are not fully available in the document.

8. If a patient wants to raise a concern about a breast cancer sign or symptom (either primary breast cancer or secondary breast cancer) while on a PIFU pathway, what are the options for them to do so (please tick all that apply):

A telephone service	Telephone service from Monday – Friday to report any new or existing concerns. The concern may then be escalated to the clinical team.
Email contact	
Drop in clinics	
Other- please detail	

### Monitoring of the pathway

9. Are all breast cancer patients on a PIFU pathway logged and tracked on the organisation's IT system?

All are logged	
All are logged and tracked	Yes – we are currently in the process of integrating our patients from an Excel spreadsheet to My Medical Record Portal.
Some are logged	
Some are logged and tracked	
No	

10. Is there a standard time limit on how long PSFU pathways are available to breast cancer patients e.g. 5 years?

Yes	5 years (maybe longer if they are under 45). The 5 years starts following the date of their surgery.
No	

If yes, what is the standard time limit?

If yes, how frequently is the standard time limit applied?

Always	X
Most of the time	
Sometimes	

Rarely	
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If any patients have a difference to the standard time limit, please detail and explain in what circumstances this occurs and the range of time limits?

11. When it is time for a breast cancer patient to be discharged from PSFU, do they receive any notification of this, e.g. by letter or phone call?

Yes	<p>X – they receive a discharge letter following their 5<sup>th</sup> and final mammogram (or their final mammogram once they reach 50 if they are discharged to SSMP when under 45). They receive a discharge letter with advice on discharge back to the GP and on going mammograms via the NBSP.</p> <p>Patients who have had bilateral mastectomies will also receive a discharge letter which is triggered to the clinical team from the SSMP co-ordinator.</p>
No	
Don't Know	

If yes, please explain how they receive this notification and provide a copy of the standardised information they would receive at that point, if it is in written form.

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