



Ref: FOIA Reference 2018/19-546

**Royal Stoke University Hospital**  
**Quality, Safety and Compliance Department**  
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Stoke-on-Trent  
Staffordshire  
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Date: 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Tel: 01782 676474  
Email [FOI@uhn.nhs.uk](mailto:FOI@uhn.nhs.uk)

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding what bloods tests are taken.

On 4<sup>th</sup> January 2019 we contacted you via email as we required a timeframe for the information to be collated.

On 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019 you replied via email the following:

*“Please can you cover the period October 2018 to current date 7 January 2019, noting any changes in process or revisions during that period?”*

As of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) manages two hospital sites – Royal Stoke University Hospital, and County Hospital (Stafford). Therefore the response below is for the two sites combined from that date where appropriate.

**Q1 Please can you tell me what bloods tests are taken as standard on a regular basis on ward 202 - Cancer Centre for outpatients that have leukaemia and are neutropenic.**

A1 Information not held: however, the tests required vary from patient to patient and similarly the frequency of testing will also vary from patient to patient. This will depend on various factors; some of them are (i) what type of leukaemia (ii) whether someone is on treatment/ had recent treatment (iii) what is the intensity of treatment (iv) what is the overall aim of the treatment (v) Is there an indwelling central venous access (vi) what were the abnormalities detected when they had been an in-patient. This of course is not an exhaustive list.

In summary the tests are dependent on a patient and cannot be generalised in an accurate manner.

For the vast majority of patients these are the tests performed;  
Full Blood Count, U&Es, Group and Save once weekly (this will depend on transfusion frequency), LFTs once weekly (again depends on various patient related factors)

**Q2 Is a marker taken as standard practice for example C-RP - if so - how often is this done and are results available to patients.**

- A2 Information not held: however, CRP is a test performed only when needed based on patient factors such as the possibility of infection, inflammation etc.
- Q3 Do patients have to exhibit certain problems such as a high temperatures etc. before bloods explore certain areas such as C-RP?**
- A3 Information not held: However, high temperature in patients with leukaemia and neutropenia will be managed as an infection. Here CRP will be done but treatment will not necessarily depend on CRP but it will help to monitor response. As explained above CRP will be usually done if there is a reason to suspect infection or inflammation and the clinical team needs another modality to confirm/ monitor.
- Q4 Can patients request certain types of blood tests such as C-RP?**
- A4 Information not held: However, this is similar to any investigations/ interventions a patient goes through. Patients can of course discuss their management with their clinical team and their clinicians will discuss the reasons/rationale for performing certain clinical investigations.

\*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

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An anonymised copy of this request can be found on the Trust's disclosure log, please note that all requests can be found at the following link: <http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/Pages/Freedom-of-Information-Disclosure-Log.aspx>

This letter confirms the completion of this request. A log of this request and a copy of this letter will be held by the Trust.

If you have any queries related to the response provided please in the first instance contact my office.

Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

The Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or via [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk).

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 676474.

Yours,



Leah Carlisle  
**Deputy Head of Quality, Safety & Compliance**