

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 4854

Please reply to:
FOI Administrator
Trust Management
Maidstone Hospital
Hermitage Lane
Maidstone
Kent
ME16 9QQ
Email: mtw-tr.foiadmin@nhs.net

22 August 2018

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to self-funding drug and medications.

You asked:

My area of interest is in terms of NHS patients who are given the opportunity and choose to personally pay privately for drugs and medication which are not funded by the NHS, and having self-funded receive support from the NHS in terms of administration of those drugs, blood tests etc., and aftercare.

Freedom of information questions (time parameters 1st January 2017 to date:

- 1. What is the policy of the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells Trust in terms of supporting NHS patients who have had drug and medication recommended to them which is not funded by the NHS, and who have privately paid for the drugs. The NHS support amounting to Consultation and/or/drug administration and/or blood tests and/or aftercare by NHS staff.*
- 2. Within the Oncology Department, how many patients who have privately paid for a drug which is not funded by the NHS are receiving support as described above by the NHS and its staff.*
- 3. Within the Oncology Department, how many NHS second line patients who have privately paid for the drug Palbociclib, as it is not funded by the NHS are receiving support and care as outlined above.*
- 4. How many other Departments adopt this policy of NHS support for NHS patients who have had to privately pay for their medication, as it is not funded by the NHS.*
- 5. Does the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust support any NHS patients who have had to pay privately for the drug Rituximab as it is not NHS funded?*
- 6. In the event of a positive answer to 5. above, which department provides the support and for the treatment of which disease?*

Trust response:

1. Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells has a robust policy for "top up" treatments. These are treatments that are provided to NHS patients that are not funded by

the NHS and therefore patients choose to pay for this element of their care. The payments made cover the cost of the drug, administration of the drug plus any associated monitoring related specifically to that medication.

2. Between 1st January 2017 and 16th July 2018, there were 24 patients that received a medication that is not funded by the NHS that the patient chose to pay for.

3. Between 1st January 2017 and 16th July 2018, there was 1 patient that received Palbociclib that is not funded by the NHS that the patient chose to pay for.

4. The top up treatment policy is Trust wide. Rheumatology patients are the other main group that make use of this facility.

5. Between 1st January 2017 and 16th July 2018, 0 patients received Rituximab that was not funded by the NHS and the patient chose to pay for.

6. Not applicable.