

Reference:	FOI.13942.24
Subject:	Colorectal cancer
Date of Request:	5 March 2024

Your request and our response

In the past 3 months, how many patients have been treated for Colorectal Cancer [CRC] with the following regimens? If possible, please also provide the split of metastatic vs non-metastatic patients for each regimen.

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with the information requested for palliative care, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The “appropriate limit” represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours (or 2½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

In order to provide you with the data requested for palliative care, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of the medical records of patients that are receiving palliative care, to identify any information that would fulfil your request, as this is not recorded centrally.

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), which provides an exemption from a public authority’s obligation to comply with a request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed the appropriate limit.

However, under section 16 of the FoIA, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance. Therefore, the UHB provides the accessible information it holds in the table below, as requested.

The UHB provides, within the table below, the number of Colorectal Cancer patients that have received the regimens listed, as recorded on the ChemoCare system, during the period 1 December 2023 to 29 February 2024.

Regimens	Total patients	Metastatic patients	Non-Metastatic patients
Capecitabine	8	*	*
CAPIRI	**	0	*
CAPOX	40	6	34
Cetuximab with FOLFIRI	7	7	0
Cetuximab with FOLFOX	0	0	0
Cetuximab as a single agent	**	0	*
Cetuximab with Encorafenib	**	*	0
Irinotecan as a single agent	**	*	0
FOLFIRI	**	18	*
FOLFOX	**	18	*
Fluorouracil (5FU) as a single agent	0	0	0
Oxaliplatin as a single agent	0	0	0
Nivolumab with Ipilimumab	0	0	0
Panitumumab with FOLFIRI	**	7	*
Panitumumab with FOLFOX	**	*	0

Panitumumab as a single agent	**	*	0
Pembrolizumab	0	0	0
Any other systemic anti-cancer therapy	**	13	*
Palliative care only	Section 12 exemption applied		

Where the figures in the table have been replaced with an asterisk (*), the UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of patients due to the low numbers of cases (less than 5), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. The UHB has also replaced totals which could be used to calculate the redacted figure with a double asterisk (**). The UHB is therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the FoIA. This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)/UK General Data Protection Regulations, as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles of the UK GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the DPA and UK GDPR define personal data as data that relates to a living individual who can be identified solely from that data or from that data and other information, which is in the possession of the data controller.