

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – MENOPAUSE AND CANCER

I write in response to your request for information in relation to menopause and cancer.

Question:

1. Policy and pathways

1a. Does your Trust have a **written policy, guideline, or clinical pathway** addressing menopause symptoms in patients treated for breast cancer?

- a. Yes / No
- b. If yes, please provide the document or a web link.

1b. Is menopause care for breast cancer patients addressed within:

- c. Breast cancer service guidelines
- d. Oncology service guidelines
- e. Menopause service guidelines
- f. Not formally addressed

Answer:

a.	Yes, via theChalmers Menopause clinic. Also the breast surgeons do discuss menopause symptoms every day with breast cancer patients
b.	Management of menopausal symptoms after breast cancer Right Decisions (note this is also available to the public)
c.	yes. Also for breast surgery not written down in guidelines other than to inform patients that they cannot continue HRT if they have an oestrogen receptor positive breast cancer
d.	Yes
e.	Yes also Chalmers clinic can provide more information
f.	No

Question:

2. Service provision

2a. Does your Trust provide **specialist menopause support** specifically for patients with a history of breast cancer?

a. Yes / No

2b. If yes, which of the following are available? (Please tick all that apply)

- b. Dedicated menopause clinic
- c. Joint oncology–gynaecology clinic
- d. Breast cancer nurse–led service
- e. Referral to general menopause clinic
- f. External referral only

Answer:

a.	Yes – Chalmers Clinic
b.	Yes
c.	No
d.	Yes – part of breast care nurse discussions
e.	Yes
f.	No

Question:

3. Staffing and expertise

3a. Are any of the following routinely involved in menopause management for breast cancer patients?

- a. Breast care nurses
- b. Oncologists
- c. Gynaecologists
- d. GPs with special interest in menopause
- e. Menopause specialist nurses
- f. Sexual health specialist (including clinician/oncologist trained in sexual health and wellbeing)

3b. Does your Trust provide **specific training or education** on menopause management in breast cancer patients for clinical staff?

g. Yes / No

Answer:

a.	Yes
b.	Yes
c.	Yes
d.	Variable
e.	No
f.	Yes
g.	Yes within Oncology

Question:

4. Patient information and support



Does your Trust provide **written or digital patient information**, other than publicly available information, specifically addressing menopause symptoms after breast cancer treatment?

- a. Yes / No
- b. If yes, please provide copies or links.

Answer:

a.	No
b.	Not applicable

Question:

5. Data collection and audit

5a. Does your Trust routinely collect or audit data on menopause symptoms or menopause-related quality of life in breast cancer patients?

- a. Yes / No

5b. Has your Trust conducted any audit, service evaluation, or quality improvement project related to menopause care in breast cancer patients in the last 3 years?

- b. Yes / No
- c. If yes, please provide the title and date.

Answer:

a.	No
b.	Yes
c.	"Ovarian function suppression in Oestrogen Positive (ER+) Early Breast Cancer with 4 weekly and 12 weekly GnRH agonists: The Edinburgh Cancer Centre experience" presented at UK-Breast Cancer Group 2024 meeting

I hope the information provided helps with your request.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request, you do have the right to request us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner within 6 months of receipt of our review response. You can do this by using the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office online appeals service at www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal. If you remain dissatisfied with the Commissioner's response you then have the option to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law.

If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to the FOI Reviewer at the email address at the head of this letter. The review will be undertaken by a Reviewer who was not involved in the original decision-making process.



FOI responses (subject to redaction of personal information) may appear on NHS Lothian's Freedom of Information website at: <https://org.nhsllothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
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Cc: Chief Executive