In line with the Freedom of Information Act (2000) we would like to understand the use of Full Blood Count tests (FBC; also called Complete Blood Count, CBC) for chemotherapy cancer treatment given by your hospitals. This can cover tests prescribed to be done in-hospital or at a point-of-care unit (pharmacy, GP) in the last year January 2022 - January 2023.

We would be grateful if you could respond to the following questions:

1. What percentage of FBC tests alone (without a biochemistry test such as kidney function) are prescribed for chemotherapy patients per month?
2. For the services in your hospital, are FBC tests prescribed to be done at the hospital, in a GP unit or at the pharmacy or in some other primary care setting?
3. What is the expected time for FBC tests scheduled before chemotherapy - 72h before chemotherapy day, 48h, 24h, or on the day of chemotherapy?
4. In the last year January 2022-January 2023 how many cancer treatment appointments for chemotherapy were cancelled due to the patient having neutropenia and/or thrombocytopenia on the same day as chemotherapy scheduled appointment?
5. What are chemotherapies that only require an FBC test to decide if chemotherapy can be administered (without other biochemistry tests such as kidney function)?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Question  | Answer  |
| 1. Percentage of FBC tests alone prescribed for cancer chemotherapy patients
 | \* |
| 1. Location of blood sample collection for FBC test (tick all that apply)
 | In hospital | GP | Pharmacy | Other primary care setting |
| \* | \*  | \*  | \* |
| 1. Expected time for FBC tests scheduled before chemotherapy
 | 72h\* | 48h\* | 24h\* | Tests on chemotherapy day \* |
| 1. Cancer appointments cancelled based on results from an FBC alone (neutropenia and/or thrombocytopenia) on the same day as chemotherapy scheduled appointment
 | \* |
| 1. Chemotherapies that only require an FBC test for checking if patient is fit to receive chemotherapy
 | \* |

\*I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) that we do not hold this information. However, Section 16 of the FOIA places a duty on us to provide help and assistance where possible and I am able to advise you that: this information can be obtained from Clatterbridge Cancer Centre where all our chemotherapy patients are treated.