

04 January 2023

## **Ovarian Risk Reducing Surgery**

**I would be grateful if you could provide the relevant Trust policy / procedure / guidelines (and signpost to the relevant provision) which confirms:**

**The process that allows a patient to be transferred from one Trust's waiting list to the waiting list for your Trust for risk-reducing ovarian surgery. This is where the patient has tested positive for BRCA**

This surgery is carried out in all Trusts and transfer is unnecessary. There is no such policy.

**That a patient can be on your Trust's waiting list as well as another Trust's waiting list at the same time for risk reducing surgery**

It is possible that a person could be on a risk reducing surgery waiting list in another Trust, whilst also on a waiting list in Belfast Trust for the same procedure. However, the Department of Health have access to information on all waiting lists regionally and they do carry out some auditing of the lists to try to limit the likelihood of patients waiting for the same surgery across multiple Trusts.

**That a patient's position on a waiting list can be proposed / paused and confirmation of what circumstances in which it can be postponed / paused (e.g. pregnancy) for risk reducing surgery**

Yes, it can depending on patient wishes (declining date for surgery and also if pregnant). Please refer to attached IEAP guidance.

**The criteria which determines the order of priority of patients for risk reducing surgery and any other factors affecting this priority which may arise in the future.**

The criteria is clinical need and chronological order and then date placed on the waiting list. Oncology surgery will take priority.

**I would be grateful if you could provide the details of the waiting listing times for the following:**

**A first appointment with consultant for risk reducing surgery**

The waiting time is approximately 21 months and this is a face-to-face appointment.

**A pre-operation appointment for risk reducing surgery**

This would occur within 2 weeks of a scheduled date for surgery.

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**A clinical psychologist appointment in relation to risk reducing surgery**

Clinical psychology is not offered.

**The risk reducing surgery**

This is approximately 10 months but will differ on individual risk status.

**I would be grateful if you could provide the details of the Trust email addresses, contact telephone numbers and secretary details for the surgeons which carry out this risk reducing surgery.**

Dr Ian Harley - Secretary can be contacted on Tel: 028 9504 9343  
Dr Mark McComiskey - Secretary can be contacted on Tel: 028 9504 8932  
Dr Hans Nagar - Secretary can be contacted on Tel: 028 9504 9299  
Dr Stephen Dobbs - Secretary can be contacted on, Tel: 028 9504 9257  
Dr Elaine Craig - Secretary can be contacted on Tel: 028 9504 9218

We have not provided the secretary details apart from the office contact numbers as we are not able to provide personal information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI). This information is subject to Section 40(2) of the FOI Act 2000 – Personal information relating to a third party. This is deemed to be personal information about another individual and disclosure would breach one or more of the principles of the Data Protection Act.

It is the protocol of Belfast Trust to make public the names of employees of a senior standing – i.e. Band 8A and above. Those who fall below that band are exempt and so their names have been omitted.

**I would be grateful if you could provide the details of how many people in total are on the waiting list for risk reducing surgery.**

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**I would be grateful if you could confirm how many risk reducing surgery procedures have been carried out over the last 5 years.....**

Dates	Total
01/04/2017 - 31/03/2022	86

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**.....and how many procedures had the breast risk reducing surgery carried out at the same time.**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>01/04/2017 - 31/03/2022</b>	<b>10</b>

**I would be grateful if you could confirm the average age of women receiving this surgery over the last 5 years.**

There is no way of obtaining this information without a manual review of individual records. This would exceed the costs limit specified in the Freedom of Information Act.

We estimate that compliance with these elements of the request for information would exceed the appropriate costs limit. Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information 2000, the limit has been specified as £450 and represents the estimated cost of one or more persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information.