

28 September 2023

## **Breast Care Reconstruction Patient Appointment Plans**

**I have a further request based on the information that was provided in FOI 29707**

### **1. What does it mean when a patient has an appointment plan?**

Whilst the term 'appointment plan' was not used in the response to FOI 29707, we are able to clarify that following the initial appointment with the surgeon, a separate follow up appointment would be arranged with the Breast Care Nurse to discuss the options that have been thought suitable for the individual. This is usually a longer appointment than that with the surgeon. Once this appointment has been completed patients are then reviewed back with the surgeon to confirm the final decision and treatment plan once all options have been explained or discussed.

### **2. Of those patients who have an 'appointment plan' how long have they been on the breast care nurse reconstruction list?**

As per the previous response to FOI 29707, patients' surgery is planned in order of having been placed on the waiting list for reconstruction, when at the same time, the patient is placed on the waiting list to be seen at a Breast Care Nurse Clinic appointment prior to surgery.

### **3. You note that there is one list of 17 patients waiting for this service and 11 are related to BRCA. A nurse from the breast care team confirmed by telephone that there are two separate lists for cancer patients recon. and brca recon. Please confirm the same and advice of many patients are on each list.**

We are able to confirm that at the time of the response to FOI 29707, of the 17 patients waiting for a Breast Care Nurse Reconstruction Clinic appointment, 11 were related to BRCA and the remaining 6 patients are awaiting delayed reconstruction following cancer diagnosis. No nurse led reconstruction clinics have been allocated for September or October 2023 to date.

### **4. Please confirm if any appointments have been booked for this service after the month of September. If not, please explain why.**

As previously indicated, Breast Care Nurse Reconstruction appointments are being arranged on an "as required" basis, when the Consultant has indicated they are planning a date for the reconstruction surgery. Due to other service demands, no

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patients have yet been scheduled for reconstruction surgery beyond the month of September 2023. We continue to see women who have been diagnosed with a breast cancer who are having immediate reconstruction as part of their surgery for breast cancer treatment. These patients are reviewed at clinics in BCH Outpatients Wing A alongside the Consultant breast clinics as this is for breast cancer treatment. The team's capacity to establish regular Breast Care Nurse Reconstruction Clinics continued to be reviewed, however it is unlikely that this will resume at present due to staffing, although we are exploring the possibility of seeing the patients waiting through additional evening clinics.