

Our Ref: FOI ID 37585

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NHS South Sefton CCG

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Re: Freedom of Information Request

Please find below the response to your recent Freedom of Information request regarding Breast Cancer services within NHS South Sefton CCG.

Request/[Response](#):

Part A – Bisphosphonates

Currently it is NHS England and Department of Health policy that CCGs are responsible for commissioning bisphosphonates for the prevention of secondary breast cancer. They have stated that p230 of the Manual for Prescribed Specialised Services 2016-17 makes this clear. The Manual is available here: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2016/06/pss-manual-may16.pdf>

Breast Cancer Now believes that the intention of this section of the manual is to refer to bisphosphonates in a different indication, and that the manual is not a sufficient method of communicating to CCGs that it is their responsibility to commission bisphosphonates for the prevention of secondary breast cancer. This is one reason why we are conducting this FOI request.

Your response suggests that your CCG does not routinely fund bisphosphonates for the prevention of secondary breast cancer. However, we would be grateful if you could confirm whether this is the case.

Please see the weblink below which is Pan Mersey Formulary which sets out the CCGs commissioning stance for bisphosphonates. You will note this is classed as a red drug therefore is commissioned via secondary care.

<http://formulary.panmerseyapc.nhs.uk/chaptersSubDetails.asp?FormularySectionID=6&SubSectionRef=06.06.02&SubSectionID=B100>

Part B – Faslodex (Fulvestrant)

Given your response, we assume that your CCG does not routinely fund fulvestrant for women with hormone receptor positive locally advanced and metastatic breast cancer. However, we would be grateful if you could confirm whether this is the case.

NHS South Sefton CCG does not routinely commission fulvestrant.

Part C – Breast Reconstruction

Thank you for your response to Part C of our request. In light of this information, it would be helpful if you could review and update your CCG's response.

Could you please clarify the question you would like answering in Part C as we did provide a response to question 7 and questions 8 – 9 were not applicable.