

3rd June 2026

Eastbourne District General Hospital

Kings Drive
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN21 2UD

Tel: 0300 131 4500
Website: www.esht.nhs.uk

Further to your recent request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000, I now set out our answers to your specific questions, and any clarifications sought and provided, as follows:

- 1) **Do you have a Urology department who see suspected prostate cancer patients referred from the community?**

Yes.

- 2) **What criteria are used to triage (Accept or Reject) referrals from the community, for patients with suspected prostate cancer, including Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) thresholds and Digital Rectal Examination (DRE) for asymptomatic patients? Please include specific PSA levels used as well as any other criteria.**

Not applicable, National Cancer Waiting Times Guidance specifically bars Trusts from “rejecting” Urgent Suspected Cancer referrals (2WW referrals ceased to be described in this way two years ago).

- 3) **What criteria are used to triage (Accept or Reject) referrals from the community, for patients with suspected prostate cancer, including PSA thresholds and DRE for symptomatic patients? Please include specific PSA levels used as well as any other criteria.**

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (ESHT) follows the Surrey and Sussex Cancer Alliance Referral Guide.

Please contact NHS Surrey and Sussex Cancer Alliance direct for a copy of their referral guide via the following email address:

rsch.sscaadmin@nhs.net

- 4) **How does your service define symptomatic and asymptomatic for suspected prostate cancer referrals?**

ESHT does not define symptomatic and asymptomatic for suspect prostate cancer at time of referral, unless a positive MSU has been sent by the GP; the patient needs assessment first.

- 5) **Do you apply different thresholds or criteria for higher-risk groups (e.g. Black men, men with family history)?**

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (ESHT) follows the Surrey and Sussex Cancer Alliance Referral Guide.

Please contact NHS Surrey and Sussex Cancer Alliance direct for a copy of their referral guide via the following email address:

rsch.sscaadmin@nhs.net

- 6) **For the calendar year 2025:**

- a) **How many patients were referred on the suspected prostate cancer pathway?**

In 2025 - 1355 raised PSA referrals were received.

- b) **Of these, how many were classified by the referrer (or by your triage) as asymptomatic?**

We do not hold this information.

- c) **How many were classified as symptomatic?**

We do not hold this information.

- 7) **For the same period, how many referred patients had their 2WW referral rejected?**

National Cancer Waiting Times Guidance specifically bars Trusts from “rejecting” Urgent Suspected Cancer referrals (2WW referrals ceased to be described in this way two years ago)

Please break this down, if possible, by:

- a) **Asymptomatic vs symptomatic.**

- b) **Rejected primarily due to PSA level below threshold.**

Not applicable.

- 8) **Please provide a copy of your suspected prostate cancer referral form for both asymptomatic and symptomatic patients?**

ESHT use the Surrey and Sussex Cancer Alliance referral form.

Please contact NHS Surrey and Sussex Cancer Alliance direct for a copy via the following email address:

rsch.sscaadmin@nhs.net

I trust this information is helpful in its detail or explanation however, if you are dissatisfied with the response, then you have the right to request an internal review. If you wish to seek an

internal review, please write to the Freedom of Information Team at esh-tr.foi@nhs.net quoting the above FOI reference number, within 40 working days. Please note the Trust is not obliged to accept a request for an internal review after this time period.

Yours faithfully

Freedom of Information (FOI) Team
East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust
0300 131 4716
Core Hours of Business: Monday to Friday 9.00am to 4.00pm