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PRESS RELEASE

Blackpool Hospital is ranked high in leukaemia trials

BLACKPOOL Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has been congratulated for its efforts to recruit patients with leukaemia to clinical research trials.

Blackpool Victoria Hospital is the highest ranking hospital within the North of England in terms of recruiting patients to take part in trials relating to Acute Myeloid Leukaemia (AML) with 67 patients involved in the recent AML16 study. The Trust is also the fifth highest recruiting centre to the trials out of approximately 150 centres.

AML is a rare type of cancer that requires strong treatment with chemotherapy to try and reduce a patient's leukaemia cells.

Around 2,000 adults are diagnosed with AML each year in the UK. AML can affect people at any age, but is more common in people over 65.

The disease requires strong chemotherapy to try and reduce the number of leukaemia cells in the bone marrow. Clinical trials compare the standard chemotherapy treatment with newer drugs or newer combinations to see if there are any differences between the standard and the newer treatments.

The haematology department at Blackpool Victoria is a specialist unit that offers strong chemotherapy to the people of Lancashire & South Cumbria.

The AML16 trial is offered to patients over the age of 60 years with AML. It is a national trial and is open across the country in all major haematology centres. It has been open to patients since 2006 and Blackpool Victoria has been very successful in recruiting patients to this trial.

Dr Paul Cahalin, Consultant Haematologist at the Trust, said: "Clinical trials are vital to improve knowledge about leukaemia and to develop new treatments. They are carried out to look at new drugs or new combinations of existing treatments, to make them more effective. This improves our ability to treat this disease, and to hopefully make the treatment for patients more successful.

"We are proud here in Blackpool to be able to offer the people of Lancashire & South Cumbria the choice to enter modern clinical studies in the treatment of

leukaemia. This gives our population access to the best treatment available anywhere in the UK.

“The fact that we have been highlighted as one of the highest recruiting centres in the UK in this trial further reinforces our aim to be one of the best haematology units in the country, and reinforces how important research is to improving the quality of patient care.”



Caption: Dr Paul Cahalin, Consultant Haematologist at the Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

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