



Ref: FOIA Reference 2021/22-534

Date: 28th March 2022

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 24th January 2022 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding intra-vitreous injections.

The University Hospitals of North Midlands Trust is committed to the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

However, the NHS is facing unprecedented challenges relating to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic at the current time. Understandably, our resources have been diverted to support our front-line colleagues who are working tremendously hard to provide care for our patients, and to those in need of our services.

We strive to be transparent and to work with an open culture. But at this time, whilst care of our patients and the safety of our staff takes precedent, it is likely that responses to some requests for information will be delayed. We apologise for this position in advance, and will endeavour to provide you with as much information as we can, as soon as we are able.

The Information Commissioners Office has recognised the current situation in the NHS.

On 31st January 2022 we contacted you via email as we required the following clarification: What you mean by Wet Age-Related Macular Degeneration (wAMD)? as according to clinical coding there is no specific code for wAMD – see below comment

- Wet Age-Related Macular Degeneration (wAMD) – there is not a specific code for wet age related Macular Degeneration (there is a code for macular degeneration see below highlighted in yellow, please note that this code could be assigned for the other terms that are included in the description of the code)

H35.3 Degeneration of macula and posterior pole

Incl.:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angioid streaks • Cyst • Drusen (degenerative) • Hole 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • of macula
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puckering 	
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Kuhnt-Junius degeneration

Senile macular degeneration (atrophic) (exudative)

Toxic maculopathy

Coding-Hint

Use additional external cause code (Chapter XX), if desired, to identify drug, if drug-induced.

On 16th March 2022 you contacted us via email with the following:

'Thank you for your response. We understand the trust current pressure due to covid-19 pandemic. Just wanted to know whether the below FOI request has been processed.'

We replied the same day via email stating that until you clarified our query of 31st January 2022 (above) then we would be unable to process this request, we also asked that you note the 'clock' stops until clarification is received.

On 17th March 2022 you replied via email with:

'In the absence of a ICD10 code specifically for wAMD, please just use H35.3 to provide patient counts. Please use code H34 for Retinal Vein Occlusion, and E11.3 of Diabetic Macular Oedema. Hope this helps.'

As of 1st November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) manages two hospital sites – Royal Stoke University Hospital, and County Hospital (Stafford). Therefore the response below is for the two sites combined from that date where appropriate.

Q1 I am analysing the usage of intra-vitreous injections or implants by the NHS. I would greatly appreciate if you could answer the following questions:

1. For the 4-month period from September to December 2021, how many patients have your Trust treated (using intra-vitreous injections or implants) for each of the following eye conditions:

- **Wet Age-Related Macular Degeneration (wAMD)**
- **Diabetic Macular Oedema (DMO)**
- **Retinal Vein Occlusion - Central (CRVO) or Branch (BRVO)**
- **Any other eye condition**

A1 For the period stated above (Sept 21 – Dec 21), there were **54 patients** who had an intra-vitreous injections or implants procedure.

The split by condition is:-

- Wet Age-Related Macular Degeneration (wAMD) = 27
- Diabetic Macular Oedema (DMO) = 0
- Retinal Vein Occlusion - Central (CRVO) or Branch (BRVO) = 0
- Any other eye condition = 27

Q2 How many of the following intra-vitreous injections/implants have your Trust administered in the four-month period from September to December 2021:

- Aflibercept
- Bevacizumab
- Brolucizumab
- Dexamethasone
- Fluocinolone acetonide
- Ranibizumab

A2 See below:

AFLIBERCEPT 3.6mg/0.09mL!INJECTION (pre-filled syringe)	1903
BEVACIZUMAB!1.25mg/0.05mL!INTRAVITREAL INJECTION	60
DEXAMETHASONE 700microgram!INTRAVITREAL IMPLANT	10
RANIBIZUMAB!0.5mg/0.05mL!SYRINGE	1355

Q3 Please provide the number of injections/implants by eye condition for the four-month period from September to December 2021.

Number of Injections/Implants: Sept to Dec 2021			
	Eye Conditions		
Treatment	wAMD	DMO	RVO
Aflibercept			
Bevacizumab			
Brolucizumab			
Dexamethasone			
Fluocinolone acetonide			
Ranibizumab			

A3 No patients treated during the four month time period had the clinical coding for the above eye conditions.

*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

UHNM NHS Trust is a public sector body and governed by EU law. FOI requestors should note that any new Trust requirements over the EU threshold will be subject to these regulations and will be advertised for open competition accordingly.

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<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>. Where information was created by third parties, you should contact them directly for permission to re-use the information.

An anonymised copy of this request can be found on the Trust's disclosure log, please note that all requests can be found at the following link: <http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/Pages/Freedom-of-Information-Disclosure-Log.aspx>

This letter confirms the completion of this request. A log of this request and a copy of this letter will be held by the Trust.

If you have any queries related to the response provided please in the first instance contact my office.

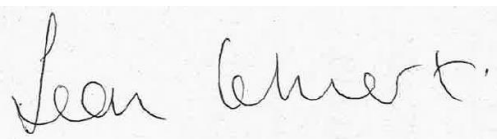
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

The Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or via www.ico.org.uk.

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 671612.

Yours,



Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager