

Ref: FOIA Reference 2021/22-234

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Email [foi@uhn.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@uhn.nhs.uk)

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding treatment of spasticity.

On 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021 we contacted you via email as we required the following clarification:

Q2 what do you mean by "treated", MS is a condition which cannot be "treated" as such, it is managed and most patients will either be managed via their GP or as an outpatient. We do not code outpatient appointments only inpatient stays. We can give you a list of inpatients who have the MS clinical coding however as this is classed as a co-morbidity so this will include patients who are not in hospital due to their MS

Q3 We do not record on Careflow the reason why a person was admitted, we can give you all the inpatients who have the stroke clinical coding, however these will include patients who suffered a stroke whilst been in hospital for other reasons

Q4 We do not record on Careflow the reason why a person was admitted, we can give you all the inpatients who have Spinal or Brain Trauma clinical coding however you would have to clarify what you mean by Spinal or Brain Trauma as we would be making assumptions as to what this refers to

On 6<sup>th</sup> August 2021 you replied via email with the following:

'Q2 – Please share us with the data you hold for MS

Q3 – For Q3 if not for drugs, would you able to share data for the below codes;

Stroke:

I60, I61, I62, I63, I64

Q4 - For Q4 would you able to share data for the below codes;

Brain Trauma: S06, T905

Spinal Trauma: S14, S24, S34'

On the same day we replied via email with the following:

Q2 – Please share us with the data you hold for MS, this does not answer our query, please can you expand on what you mean?

On 13<sup>th</sup> August 2021 you sent in another request on Growth Hormone & Spasticity, we responded via email informing you that under section 12 exemption we would be aggregating these two requests, the exemption states:

The authority can combine related requests received within a period of 60 consecutive days from:

- The same person or
- People who appear to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign.

We also advised you that your 1<sup>st</sup> request was paused while we waited for you to clarify the above

On 19<sup>th</sup> August 2021 you replied via email with:

*'We understand that for MS the patients are either being managed via their GP or as an outpatient, please share us the inpatient stays information.'*

I can neither confirm nor deny whether the information you have requested is held by the Trust in its entirety. This is because the information requested in question 5 (request #1) and questions 3-5 (request #2) is not held centrally, but may be recorded in individual health records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all health records within the Trust and extract the information where it is present. We therefore estimate that complying with your request is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act: *cost of compliance is excessive*. The section 12 exemption applies when it is estimated a request will take in excess of 18 hours to complete. We estimate that accessing and reviewing all health records and then extracting relevant information would take longer than the 18 hours allowed for. In addition to the section 12 exemption the Trust is also applying section 14 (1) exemption: *oppressive burden on the authority*

Under section 16 of the FOI Act we are required to provide requestors with advice and assistance where possible. We would therefore like to advise you that if your request is shortened to just the questions that we are able to comply within the 18 hour time frame. In order to avoid delay to your response we have provided this below.

As of 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

### Request #1

**Q1 We are analyzing the treatment of spasticity and we would greatly appreciate it if you could please answer the following questions;**

**Q1. How many patients have been treated (for any condition) in the last 3 months with the following products:**

- **Baclofen**
- **Tizanidine**
- **Dantrolene sodium**
- **Diazepam**
- **Sativex**
- **Gabapentin**
- **Botox**
- **Dysport**
- **Xeomin**

**A1** We are unable to provide the information you require in the requested format as to release this data could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved due to the low numbers involved, and would breach the Trusts obligations under Data Protection Act 2018. Accordingly, this aspect of your request is exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 40(2) of the FOI Act. *Personal information*. However as the Trust is committed to openness and transparency we can band the numbers as being <5

This exemption is an absolute exemption and therefore no consideration of the public interest test is needed. Data shown for May 21 – July 21 (inclusive) Dispensing data shown

Baclofen	97
Tizanidine	8
Dantrolene sodium	<5
Diazepam	166
Sativex	0
Gabapentin	506
Botox	617
Dysport	26
Xeomin	23

**Q2 For patients treated for Multiple Sclerosis in the last 3 months, how many patients have been treated with the following products?**

- **Baclofen**
- **Tizanidine**
- **Dantrolene sodium**
- **Diazepam**
- **Sativex**
- **Gabapentin**
- **Botox**
- **Dysport**
- **Xeomin**

A2 We are unable to provide the information you require in the requested format as to release this data could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved due to the low numbers involved, and would breach the Trusts obligations under Data Protection Act 2018. Accordingly, this aspect of your request is exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 40(2) of the FOI Act. *Personal information*. However as the Trust is committed to openness and transparency we can band the numbers as being <5

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Baclofen	15
Tizanidine	<5
Dantrolene sodium	<5
Diazepam	<5
Sativex	0
Gabapentin	<5
Botox	10
Dysport	0
Xeomin	0

**Q3 For patients admitted for Stroke in the last 3 months, how many patients have been treated with the following products?**

- **Baclofen**
- **Tizanidine**
- **Dantrolene sodium**

- **Gabapentin**
- **Botox**
- **Dysport**
- **Xeomin**

A3 We are unable to provide the information you require in the requested format as to release this data could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved due to the low numbers involved, and would breach the Trusts obligations under Data Protection Act 2018. Accordingly, this aspect of your request is exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 40(2) of the FOI Act. *Personal information*. However as the Trust is committed to openness and transparency we can band the numbers as being <5

This exemption is an absolute exemption and therefore no consideration of the public interest test is needed. Data shown for May 21 – July 21 (inclusive) Dispensing data shown

Baclofen	<5
Tizanidine	0
Dantrolene sodium	0
Diazepam	0
Sativex	0
Gabapentin	0
Botox	0
Dysport	0
Xeomin	0

**Q4 For patients admitted for Spinal or Brain Trauma in the last 3 months, how many patients have been treated with the following products?**

- **Baclofen**
- **Tizanidine**
- **Dantrolene sodium**
- **Gabapentin**
- **Botox**
- **Dysport**
- **Xeomin**

A4 We are unable to provide the information you require in the requested format as to release this data could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved due to the low numbers involved, and would breach the Trusts obligations under Data Protection Act 2018. Accordingly, this aspect of your request is exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 40(2) of the FOI Act. *Personal information*. However as the Trust is committed to openness and transparency we can band the numbers as being <5

This exemption is an absolute exemption and therefore no consideration of the public interest test is needed. Data shown for May 21 – July 21 (inclusive) Dispensing data shown

Baclofen	<5
Tizanidine	0
Dantrolene sodium	0
Diazepam	<5
Sativex	0
Gabapentin	6

Botox	0
Dysport	<5
Xeomin	0

**Q5 Within your Trust, how many patients have been treated (with any medication or procedure) in the past 12 months for the following conditions?**

- **Multiple Sclerosis**
- **Stroke**
- **Spinal or brain trauma**

A5 Section 12 exemption as detailed above

**Request #2**

**Q1 How many patients has your Trust treated in the last 12 months with the following drugs?**

- **Genotropin**
- **Humatrope**
- **Norditropin**
- **Nutropin**
- **Omnitrope**
- **Saizen**
- **Zomacton**
- **Any other Somatropin (please specify)**

A1 We are unable to provide the information you require in the requested format as to release this data could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved due to the low numbers involved, and would breach the Trusts obligations under Data Protection Act 2018. Accordingly, this aspect of your request is exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 40(2) of the FOI Act. *Personal information*. However as the Trust is committed to openness and transparency we can band the numbers as being <5

This exemption is an absolute exemption and therefore no consideration of the public interest test is needed.

SOMATROPIN [Genotropin Goquick]	<5
SOMATROPIN [Genotropin Miniquick]	<5
SOMATROPIN [Genotropin]	14
SOMATROPIN [Norditropin Nordiflex]	<5
SOMATROPIN [Norditropin Simplexx]	<5
SOMATROPIN [Nutropinaq]	<5
SOMATROPIN [Omnitrope Surepal 10]	<5
SOMATROPIN [Omnitrope]	<5
Somatropin [Humatrope]	0
Somatropin [Saizen]	0
Somatropin [Zomacton]	0

**Q2 Please provide the number of patients under the age of 16 that were treated in the last 12 months with each of the following drugs:**

- **Genotropin**

- **Humatrope**
- **Norditropin**
- **Nutropin**
- **Omnitrope**
- **Saizen**
- **Zomacton**
- **Any other Somatropin (please specify)**

A2 We are unable to provide the information you require in the requested format as to release this data could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved due to the low numbers involved, and would breach the Trusts obligations under Data Protection Act 2018. Accordingly, this aspect of your request is exempt from disclosure under the terms of Section 40(2) of the FOI Act. *Personal information*. However as the Trust is committed to openness and transparency we can band the numbers as being <5

This exemption is an absolute exemption and therefore no consideration of the public interest test is needed.

SOMATROPIN [nutropinaq] <5

**Q3 Within your Trust, how many patients have been diagnosed (primary or secondary diagnosis) in the past 12 months for the following conditions?**

- **Neuromuscular dysfunction of bladder (ICD-10 Code N31.9)**
- **Cervical dystonia (ICD-10 code G24.3)**

A3 Section 12 exemption as detailed above

**Q4 For patients diagnosed with neuromuscular dysfunction of bladder as per question c above, how many patients have been treated in the last 3 months with the following products:**

- **Botox**
- **Dysport**
- **Xeomin**

A4 Section 12 exemption as detailed above

**Q5 For patients diagnosed with cervical dystonia as per question c above, how many patients have been treated in the last 3 months with the following products:**

- **Botox**
- **Dysport**
- **Xeomin**

A5 Section 12 exemption as detailed above

\*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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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.

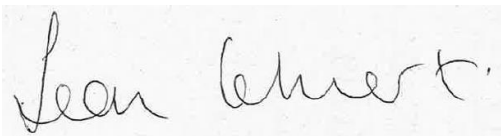
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and 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](http://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**