



Ref: FOIA Reference 2023/24-076

Date: 22nd May 2023

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 5th May 2023 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding patients treated for any disease on the drugs listed in your request.

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 have a Freedom of information query. How many patients has your Trust/health board treated in the past 6 months (for any disease) with the following drugs:

- **Aubagio (teriflunomide)**
- **Avonex (interferon beta-1a)**
- **Betaferon (interferon beta-1b)**
- **Brabio (glatiramer acetate)**
- **Copaxone (glatiramer acetate)**
- **Extavia (beta interferon-1b)**
- **Gilenya (fingolimod)**
- **Lemtrada (alemtuzumab)**
- **Kesimpta (ofatumumab)**
- **Mavenclad (cladribine)**
- **Mayzent (siponimod)**
- **Ocrevus (ocrelizumab)**
- **Plegridy (peginterferon beta-1a)**
- **Ponvory (ponesimod)**
- **Rebif (beta interferon-1a)**
- **Tecfidera (dimethyl fumarate)**
- **Tysabri (natalizumab)**
- **Tysabri (natalizumab) pre-filled syringes ONLY**
- **Vumerity (diroximel fumarate)**
- **Zeposia (ozanimod)**

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.

- Aubagio (teriflunomide) = 13
- Avonex (interferon beta-1a) = 19
- Betaferon (interferon beta-1b) = <5
- Brabio (glatiramer acetate) = 0
- Copaxone (glatiramer acetate) = 73
- Extavia (beta interferon-1b) = <5
- Gilenya (fingolimod) = 57
- Lemtrada (alemtuzumab) = <5
- Kesimpta (ofatumumab) = 24
- Mavenclad (cladribine) = 0
- Mayzent (siponimod) = 31
- Ocrevus (ocrelizumab) = 372
- Plegridy (peginterferon beta-1a) = 23
- Ponvory (ponesimod) = 0
- Rebif (beta interferon-1a) = 24
- Tecfidera (dimethyl fumarate) = 157
- Tysabri (natalizumab) = 224
- Tysabri (natalizumab) pre-filled syringes ONLY = 0
- Vumerity (diroximel fumarate) = 0
- Zeposia (ozanimod) = 0

Q2 **It would also be very helpful if you could advise how many hospital patients registered with your Trust/health board have a primary or secondary diagnosis for the following conditions:**

- **Multiple sclerosis (any type)**
- **Relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis (RRMS)**
- **Primary progressive multiple sclerosis (PPMS)**
- **Secondary progressive multiple sclerosis (SPMS)**

A2 We do not record on the patient's record on Careflow a person's long-term condition(s)

This information may be held in the patient notes however to obtain this level of information would require some to review each patient manually.

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 this question is not held centrally, but may be recorded in 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*

*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.

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

Yours,



University Hospitals
of North Midlands
NHS Trust

Rachel Montinaro
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records

