



**University Hospitals  
of North Midlands**  
NHS Trust

**Royal Stoke University Hospital**  
**Data, Security and Protection**  
Newcastle Road  
Stoke-on-Trent  
Staffordshire  
ST4 6QG

Ref: FOIA Reference 2022/23-203

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022

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

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding non-tuberculosis mycobacterium

**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.**

As of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHM) 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 How many patients were treated in the last 12 months (for any disease) with:**
- a) Ethambutol + rifampicin + Clarithromycin/azithromycin**
  - b) Ethambutol + rifampicin + Clarithromycin/azithromycin with the addition of injectable (IV) or nebulised Amikacin**

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.*

- a) Ethambutol + rifampicin + Clarithromycin/azithromycin =<5
- b) Ethambutol + rifampicin + Clarithromycin/azithromycin with the addition of injectable (IV) or nebulised Amikacin = 0

**Q2 How many patients have been diagnosed in the last 12 months for the following diseases?**

- a) **Non-tuberculosis mycobacterium (NTM) (ICD10 codes: A31.0/A31.9)**
- b) **Bronchiectasis (ICD10 codes J47/Q33.4)**

A2 We are only able to advise the number of patients who have been an inpatient in the Trust and have the above clinical coding applied to their Careflow inpatient record.

If a patient was diagnosed as having these conditions during an outpatient attendance we are unable to advise the numbers diagnosed as diagnosis information is not recorded on the Careflow OP attendance.

**Non-tuberculosis mycobacterium (NTM) (ICD10 codes: A31.0/A31.9)**

We have looked at the number of IP records during the period 1<sup>st</sup> June 21 to 31<sup>st</sup> June 22 whose ICD10 clinical coding contains either A31.0 or A31.9.

As the request is after the number of patients we have shown the number of unique patients, so if a patient was admitted multiple times during the period we would only count the patient once.

There are **10 unique patients** during this period who have the ICD10 coding A31.0/A31.9 on their inpatient record.

**Bronchiectasis (ICD10 codes J47/Q33.4)**

We have looked at the number of IP records during the period 1<sup>st</sup> June 21 to 31<sup>st</sup> June 22 whose ICD10 clinical coding contains either J47 or Q33.4.

As the request is after the number of patients we have shown the number of unique patients, so if a patient was admitted multiple times during the period we would only count the patient once.

There are **988 unique patients** during this period who have the ICD10 coding J47/Q33.4 on their inpatient record

**Q3 Which other hospital trust or health care professional would you contact if you require advice on non-tuberculosis mycobacterium (NTM) infections?**

A3 Fellow clinicians on ID team (3 x Consultants), Consultant respiratory physician with special interest in TB (UHNM) and the national MDRTB clinician forum (virtual MDT on email / Teams) of which UHNM ID team are members, also Consultant Pharmacists at TB centres specialising in MDRTB. These apply to NTM infections too.

**Q4 Do you discuss difficult to manage non-tuberculosis mycobacterium (NTM) patients as a Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)?**

A4 Yes, however it depends on the nature of resistance, some cases do not warrant MDT approach after initial treatment plan agreed

\*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.

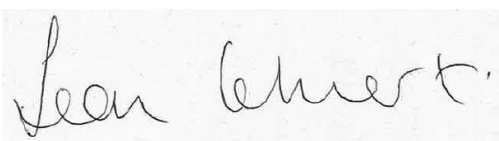
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and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





**University Hospitals  
of North Midlands**  
NHS Trust

Jean Lehnert  
**Data, Security & Protection Manager**

