



Ref: FOIA Reference 2018/19-392

Royal Stoke University Hospital
Quality, Safety and Compliance Department
Newcastle Road
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Staffordshire
ST4 6QG

Date: 10th October 2018

Tel: 01782 676474
Email FOI@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 3rd October 2018 (received into our office 4th October) requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Xanax.

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 your questions 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

On 5th October 2018 we contacted you via email as we required clarification on what you are referring to when you state admitted? As patients attend AE and are not admitted to AE, or are you referring to patients that are subsequently admitted after attending AE, also please clarify taking? Are you asking for overdose, taken by mistake? Also, Xanax is a trade name; please can you clarify the drug classification?

On 8th October 2018 you replied via email the following:

*“Any referral to your service whether they are admitted afterwards or not - i.e. any case linked to Xanax your staff have had to deal with
- It can mean overdose or an allergic reaction - any medical referral after taking Xanax
- The drug is officially called Alprazolam and in the benzodiazepine category of drugs”*

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 Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please tell me how many people have been admitted to Accident and Emergency after taking Xanax for the following periods:
For each of the periods**

- **September 2017 to September 2018**
- **September 2016 to September 2017**
- **September 2015 to September 2016**

In each incidence please let me know:

- What was the age of each admission linked to Xanax?
- What the outcome of the treatment was?

If you do not provide the information requested, you must explain the legal basis for the information being withheld. If you decline part of the request due to information being sensitive, the request being too vague, or reasonable cost being exceeded, you must still provide the part you can fulfil.

A1 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.

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 676474.



University Hospitals
of North Midlands
NHS Trust

Yours,

L Carlisle

Leah Carlisle
Deputy Head of Quality, Safety & Compliance

