



Ref: FOIA Reference 2023/24-481

Date: 25th November 2023

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear,

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 22nd October 2023 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding giant cell arteritis (GCA).

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 request with which I hope you'll be able to help me with

Does your Trust or health board treat giant cell arteritis (GCA)? If not, please provide the name of the hospital or trust that you refer GCA patients to.

A1 UHNM treats GCA

**Q2 In the past 3 months, how many patients with a primary diagnosis of GCA (ICD10 codes M31.5 or M31.6) were:
Admitted as an inpatient
Treated in A&E**

A2 At UHNM we do not record the reason for the admission, in addition we do not use ICD10 coding in ED we use ECDS coding, therefore in order to answer this question, all patient records would need to be checked- Section 12 exemption as detailed below

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*

- Q3 How many patients were treated by the rheumatology department in the past 3 months with the following:**
Tocilizumab – for any disease
Tocilizumab for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) only
Tocilizumab for giant cell arteritis (GCA) only
- A3 This Trust does not have Rheumatology Department, MPFT- Haywood community Hospital may hold this information, they can be contacted at the following: enquiries@mpft.nhs.uk
- Q4 How many patients were treated by the ophthalmology department (for any disease) in the past 3 months with Tocilizumab?**
- A4 None
- Q5 How many patients were treated in A&E in the past 3 months for giant cell arteritis (GCA) with Tocilizumab?**
- A5 None

*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.

Yours,



Rachel Montinaro
Data Security and Protection Manager - Records