



**University Hospitals  
of North Midlands**  
NHS Trust

Ref: FOIA Reference 2018/19-478

**Royal Stoke University Hospital**  
**Quality, Safety and Compliance Department**  
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Stoke-on-Trent  
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Date: 7<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Tel: 01782 676474  
Email [FOI@uhn.nhs.uk](mailto:FOI@uhn.nhs.uk)

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 7<sup>th</sup> November 2018 (received into our office 8<sup>th</sup> November) requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Zoledronic acid coding.

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 questions 2 and 4 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.

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 questions 1 and 3 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.

**Q1 Please see the below our Freedom of Information request for the University Hospitals of North Midlands:**

**Question 1**

**What is the OPCS code in your Trust for the delivery of Zoledronic acid 5 mg for the treatment of osteoporosis in post-menopausal women and adult men at increased risk of fracture?**

A1 Information not held as our pharmacy coding doesn't identify patients who have received zoledronic acid.



**Q2 What is the corresponding HRG code that would relate to the OPCS code from Information request 1 for the outpatient delivery of Zoledronic acid 5 mg for the treatment of osteoporosis in post-menopausal women and adult men at increased risk of fracture in your Trust?**

A2 Section 12 exemption as detailed above

**Q3 What is the OPCS code in your Trust for the delivery of Zoledronic acid 4 mg for the prevention of skeletal related events in adult patients with advanced malignancies involving bone or tumour-induced hypercalcaemia?**

A3 As answer 1

**Q4 What is the corresponding HRG code that would relate to the OPCS code from Information request 3 for the outpatient delivery of Zoledronic acid 4 mg for patients with advanced malignancies involving bone in your Trust?**

A4 As answer 3

\*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 676474.

Yours,



Leah Carlisle  
**Deputy Head of Quality, Safety & Compliance**