



Ref: FOIA Reference 2022/23-222

Date: 22nd August 2022

Email foi@uhnm.nhs.uk

Dear

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 21st July 2022 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding immune thrombocytopenia

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 1st 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 I have some questions about the diagnosis and treatment of immune thrombocytopenia. Could you please answer the following questions?

Q1. In the last 3 months, how many patients has your Trust treated (for any condition) with the following treatments:

- **Avatrombopag**
- **Eltrombopag**
- **Fostamatinib**
- **Romiplostim**

A1 See below:

- Avatrombopag - 0

- . Eltrombopag - 33
- . Fostamatinib - 0
- . Romiplostim - 20

Q2 In the last 3 months, how many patients has your Trust treated for Immune thrombocytopenia (ICD10 code D69.3)?

A2 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 individual health records. In order to confirm whether this information is held we would therefore have to individually access all individual 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 individual 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*

Note: This is because 99.9% are treated/managed in an outpatient setting and as we do not apply ICD10 clinical coding to outpatient appointments we are unable to identify these patients, in addition, the 'D' code is not captured from a cancer services perspective.

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 your request is shortened to just the questions that we are able to comply within the 18 hour time frame.

Q3 In the last 3 months, how many patients has your Trust treated for Immune thrombocytopenia (ICD10 code D69.3) ONLY with the following treatments:

- . **Avatrombopag**
- . **Mycophenolate mofetil**
- . **Rituximab**
- . **Surgery (splenectomy)**

A3 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.

- . Avatrombopag = 0
- . Mycophenolate mofetil = 5
- . Rituximab = <5
- . Surgery (splenectomy)

Q4 Does your Trust participate in any clinical trials for the treatment of Immune thrombocytopenia? If so, can you please provide the name of each trial and the number of patients taking part?

A4 We do not have any clinical trials running at the present time

*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

Jean Lehnert
Data, Security & Protection Manager

