



Ref: FOIA Reference 2024/25-595

Date: 6th January 2025

Email foi@uhn.nhs.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your email dated 26th November 2024 sent to the PALs team requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Meropenem

On 27th November 2024 we contacted you via email with the following:
To continue with your request we require clarification on the time frame in order to collate the information

On 2nd December 2024 you replied via email with:
'In response to the below, please can we have all information from 01.12.2023 – 01.12.2024.'

Q1 Could you provide answers to the below questions for each hospital in your trust, please?

How many doses of each of the following strengths of Meropenem do you administer annually?

- **500mg**
- **1 gram**
- **2 grams**

A1 UHNM is unable to report as there is no ePMA system in place to allow the download of administration data. All doses are signed for on paper drug charts. Therefore, in order to answer this question, we would have to review all drug charts, which would enable section 12 of the FOI Act to be applied: *cost of compliance excessive*. 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*

Q2 What are the main areas of your hospital where Meropenem is used?

A2 Meropenem is reserved for the treatment of resistant (esp. ESBL) organisms and specific antimicrobial treatment guidelines across all clinical areas at UHNM.

Q3 What are the main conditions you use Meropenem to treat?

A3 Severe and/or life-threatening Infections caused by resistant organisms where susceptibility to a carbapenem is expected / demonstrated.

Q4 How do you currently administer Meropenem via bolus or infusion? If you infuse, do you use gravity or pump sets?

A4 At UHNM, Bolus and gravity infusion are used. Extended infusion is via pump sets.

Q5 Where is your Meropenem currently reconstituted (e.g., wards or aseptic units)?

A5 Meropenem is reconstituted in clinical area clinical rooms, using aseptic Non-Touch Technique (ATT).

Q6 Do you face any challenges when administering Meropenem?

A6 None have been reported via our reporting system Datix. It is a commonly administered antibiotic and is not technically difficult to administer for a trained nurse. The only challenge that could be relevant is the prescribing of the drug in the first place by a pharmacist or Infectious diseases / Microbiology physician to see if an alternative might be optimal to spare the use of meropenem as part of general antimicrobial stewardship

Q7 Do you frequently experience drug shortages of Meropenem?

A7 No

Q8 How many medication errors do you experience per month when administering Meropenem?

A8 There was 1 incident in the last 12 months.

*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

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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,



Leah Carlisle
Head of Data, Security & Protection and Health Records
Data Protection Officer