

Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

Suite 9
Buckingham Row
Brick Kiln Lane
Wigan
WN1 1XX

Email: foi@wwl.nhs.uk

Web: www.wwl.nhs.uk

Ref: FOI/2025/10691

Date Received: 17th April 2025

Response Due: 20th May 2025

Date: 20th May 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 17th April 2025, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

This is an information request relating to NHS Trusts buying and supplying Paracetamol and ibuprofen.

Please include the following information for the financial years 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25:

- 1. The total number of individual patients to whom paracetamol and ibuprofen were prescribed by your Trust annually.**

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Ibuprofen	1,635	1,760	2,190
Paracetamol	9,727	12,181	10,734

The above transactions are for supplies to wards, departments, to inpatients and to patients on discharge.

- 2. The total amount spent by your Trust on supplying prescribed paracetamol and Ibuprofen in each of those financial years.**

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Ibuprofen	£9,307.76	£7,240.06	£6,972.71
Paracetamol	£90,744.72	£72,106.99	£66,423.07

3. If available, a breakdown of the form in which paracetamol was prescribed (e.g., tablets, capsules, liquid suspension, etc.) and associated costs for each form.

Paracetamol	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Infusion	£60,240.09	£35,140.00	£26,110.07
Suppositories	£1,352.68	£3,149.92	£2,431.95
Suspension	£15,079.53	£22,703.22	£27,026.89
Tablets	£13,492.22	£11,738.91	£10,292.37
Capsules	£15.56	£21.58	£7.41
Soluble Tablets	£564.63	£694.08	£554.38
Grand Total	£90,744.72	£72,106.99	£66,423.07

4. What are the specific conditions which qualify a patient to be prescribed paracetamol or ibuprofen? Or what is your general policy for qualifying a prescription for paracetamol or ibuprofen?

Paracetamol and ibuprofen are used for the management of pain and fever and these are a matter of clinical judgement from the prescriber as to what product, what dose, what frequency and what duration of treatment is needed.

If you are not entirely satisfied with this response, please do not hesitate to contact the Information Governance Department via the email address provided. If we do not hear from you within 40 days, we will assume that we have been able to accommodate your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours sincerely,



Gary Masterman
Associate Director of Pharmacy (Governance Assurance)

PLEASE NOTE:

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to: Information Governance Department, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust, Suite 9, Buckingham Row, Brick Kiln Lane, Wigan, WN1 1XX.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision at:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire, SK9 5AF
Helpline number: 0303 123 111