

Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

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WN1 1XX

Email: foi@wwl.nhs.uk

Web: www.wwl.nhs.uk

Ref: FOI/2025/10760

Date Received: 16th May 2025

Response Due: 16th June 2025

Date: 10th June 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 16th May 2025, I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold part of the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

In your request you asked:

1. 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.

Yes. The rheumatology department of Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS trust based at Wrightington hospital assesses patients for GCA and treats them in accordance with BSR and NICE guidelines.

2. 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 = 3.**
- **Treated in A&E = 0.**

The above information is based off patients with a primary diagnosis of M31.5 – “Giant Cell Arteritis with Polymyalgia Rheumatica” or M31.6 – “Giant Cell Arteritis”.

3. How many patients were treated by the rheumatology department in the past 3 months with the following:

- **Tocilizumab – for any disease = 86.**
- **Tocilizumab for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) only = Not centrally recorded**
- **Tocilizumab for giant cell arteritis (GCA) only = Not centrally recorded**

The Trust is unable to provide this data split into RA and GCA as it is not recorded centrally, if recorded it would be held within individual case notes. As case notes are for the care and treatment of

patients, we do not request staff to interrogate them in order to collate the information required to respond to Freedom of Information requests.

4. How many patients were treated by the ophthalmology department (for any disease) in the past 3 months with Tocilizumab?

0.

5. How many patients were treated in A&E in the past 3 months for giant cell arteritis (GCA) with Tocilizumab?

0.

Reporting period: 01/02/2025 – 30/04/2025.

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