

Ref: FOI/2025/11070

Date Received: 16th September 2025

Response Due: 14th October 2025

Date: 14th October 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 16th September 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. How many patients have a current diagnosis of Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA) (ICD10 codes M31.5 or M31.6) at your Trust?**
51 patients admitted with a diagnosis of M31.5 or M31.6 since July 2009.
- 2. How many patients have been newly diagnosed with Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA) (ICD10 codes M31.5 or M31.6) in the past 3 months?**
1 patient has been admitted to WWL for the first time with the condition; however, this does not necessarily indicate when they were diagnosed.
- 3. How many patients were treated by the Rheumatology department for Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA) (ICD10 codes M31.5 or M31.6)?**
2.
- 4. How many patients were treated by the rheumatology department in the past 3 months with the following:**
 - Tocilizumab – for any disease
 - Tocilizumab for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) only
 - Tocilizumab for giant cell arteritis (GCA) only

	WWL	Homecare	Total
Tocilizumab – for any disease	38	48	86
Tocilizumab for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) only	-	43	43

Tocilizumab for giant cell arteritis (GCA) only	-	3	3
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The Trusts pharmacy systems do not store indication data, therefore the split of indication is only available for homecare data where the indication is recorded. As such we had 86 patients treated by rheumatology between June 2025 and August 2025 with tocilizumab. 38 of these were direct from WWL pharmacy therefore, the Trust is unable to provide this data broken down by indication 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.

Of the 48 patients issued with tocilizumab via homecare, 43 were RA and 3 were GCA.

5. **How many patients were treated by the ophthalmology department (for any disease) in the past 3 months with Tocilizumab?**
0.
6. **How many patients were treated in A&E in the past 3 months for giant cell arteritis (GCA) with Tocilizumab?**
0.
7. **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 = 2.**
 - **Treated in A&E = 0.**

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