

Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Information Governance Department

Suite 9
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WN1 1XX

Email: foi@wwl.nhs.uk

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Ref: FOI/2023/9330

Date Received: 23rd October 2023

Response Due: 20th November 2023

Date: 30th April 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

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:**

- a. **Admitted as an inpatient**
b. **Treated in A&E**

| Month | Admitted as an inpatient | Treated in A&E |
|-----------|--------------------------|----------------|
| July | 0 | 0 |
| August | <5 | 0 |
| September | <5 | 0 |

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

- a. **Tocilizumab – for any disease = 67.**
b. **Tocilizumab for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) only = 29.**
c. **Tocilizumab for giant cell arteritis (GCA) only = 0.**

Please note that the Trusts Pharmacy system does not store indication data. Therefore, the split of indicator data is only available for homecare data where the indication is recorded. We do not know the indication without consulting patient notes. We do not request staff to interrogate patient notes 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.

The Trust has a policy of not releasing information when the data involved is less than 5. This is because we feel that such low numbers could make the individuals involved identifiable and therefore may cause undue harm and distress.

To disclose this information would:

a) Contravene the Data Protection Act principles in that it would amount to unfair and possibly unlawful processing, as there was a legitimate expectation by the third parties that this information would remain confidential, and

b) Disclosure may cause damage or distress to the individual(s) involved, and that damage or distress would be unwarranted (section 10 of the DPA).

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
Deputy Chief Pharmacist

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