

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/2024/9755

Date Received: 3rd April 2024

Response Due: 1st May 2024

Date: 30th April 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 3rd April 2024, 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:

1. How many patients were treated in the last 4 months (December 2023 to March 2024) by the dermatology department with each of the following products:

- **Abrocitinib** = <5
- **Acitretin** = 35
- **Alitretinoin** = <5
- **Azathioprine** = 13
- **Baricitinib** = 0
- **Ciclosporin** = 6
- **Dupilumab** = 65
- **Lebrikizumab** = 0
- **Methotrexate** = 115
- **Mycophenolate mofetil** = 11
- **Pimecrolimus** = 24
- **Phototherapy (UVB or PUVA) - for Atopic Dermatitis only**

The Trust is unable to provide this data 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.

- **Tacrolimus ointment** = 26
- **Tralokinumab** = <5
- **Upadacitinib** = 7

2. Of the patients treated in the last 4 months with any of the products listed in question 1, please provide the number of patients by the following age group:

- **Age 6-11**
- **Age 12-17**
- **Age 18 and above**

The Trust is unable to provide this data 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.

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:

- 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
- 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, Wroughtington, 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