

Information Governance Department

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WN1 1XX

Email: foi@wwl.nhs.uk
Web: www.wwl.nhs.uk

Ref: FOI/2024/10415

Date Received: 10th January 2025

Response Due: 7th February 2025

Date: 28th January 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 10th January 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:

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 the 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 = <5.**
- **Treated in A&E = <5.**

The Trust has a standard procedure 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).

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

- **Tocilizumab – for any disease = 74.**
- **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?

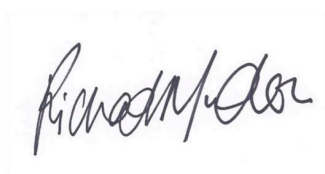
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5. How many patients were treated in A&E in the past 3 months for giant cell arteritis (GCA) with Tocilizumab?

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,



Richard Mundon
Deputy Chief Executive

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