

Ref: FOI/2024/10252

Date Received: 29th October 2024

Response Due: 26th November 2024

Date: 20th November 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

With reference to your request for information received on 29th October 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:

I would like to collect the following formation from your NHS Trust:

1. The number of patients seen for any reason, within the latest 12 months of data available to the trust, with a recorded diagnosis of Myasthenia Gravis (ICD 10 code G70.0).

92 patients were admitted with a diagnosis of Myasthenia Gravis (in any position) in the last 12 months, up to August 2024.

*The Trust is unable to answer for outpatients as a diagnosis code is not recorded.

2. Of these patients, the number treated within the last 12 months with:

- i. **Plasma exchange (PLEX)** = this information is not centrally recorded.
- ii. **Intravenous Immunoglobins (IVIG)** = <5.
- iii. **Rituximab** = 0.
- iv. **Efgartigimod** = 0 (specialist centres only).

*Questions 2ii-iv were able to be answered based off the data kept within the Pharmacy systems.

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).

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