

Reference Number: FOI202223/516
From: Commercial
Date: 11 January 2023
Subject: Drugs used in treatment of multiple sclerosis

Q1 How many patients has your trust/health board treated in the past 6 months (for any disease) with the following drugs :

- Aubagio (teriflunomide)
- Avonex (interferon beta-1a)
- Betaferon (interferon beta-1b)
- Brabio (glatiramer acetate)
- Copaxone (glatiramer acetate)
- Extavia (beta interferon-1b)
- Gilenya (fingolimod)
- Lemtrada (alemtuzumab)
- Kesimpta (ofatumumab)
- Mavenclad (cladribine)
- Mayzent (siponimod)
- Ocrevus (ocrelizumab)
- Plegridy (peginterferon beta-1a)
- Ponvory (ponesimod)
- Rebif (beta interferon-1a)
- Tecfidera (dimethyl fumarate)
- Tysabri (natalizumab)
- Tysabri (natalizumab) pre-filled syringes ONLY
- Vumerity (diroximel fumarate)
- Zeposia (ozanimod)

A1 Information not held – the Trust does not routinely collate or hold this information centrally as part of its management or performance data. In order to confirm treatment following medication being dispensed, the Trust would be required to access personal data of the individuals and as such the data is exempt under Section 40: Personal data.

Q2 How many hospital patients (inpatients or outpatients) currently have a diagnosis for the following conditions:

- a. Multiple sclerosis (any type)
- b. Relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis (RRMS)
- c. Primary progressive multiple sclerosis (PPMS)
- d. Secondary progressive multiple sclerosis (SPMS)

A2 a: Information exempted under Section 40: Personal data. Providing this information would likely identify individuals involved.

b-d: Information not held - we only hold an overall total for the number of patients with a diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis for A2a above. We are unable to provide a breakdown for the other conditions listed.

The Trust is unable to respond to all or specific elements of your request where the response would indicate five or less individuals. The Trust is withholding this information under Section 40 (Personal Information) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 to reduce the risk of any individuals being identified. The Trust is of the view that disclosure of such information would significantly increase the risk of individuals being identified and as such would constitute a breach of their personal data.

The Trust has applied exemption Section 40(2) of the FOIA and is therefore withholding the information as disclosure which may identify an individual would breach their rights under the Data Protection Act 2018. The grounds for application of this exemption include:

- Any data relating to patients or staff is third party data, furthermore health data is classified as sensitive personal data within the Data Protection Act 2018. As such, Section 40 (2) of the FOIA applies along with the Trusts duty of confidentiality. Therefore under s.2 (3) (f) (ii) of the FOIA, there is an absolute exemption from disclosure on the grounds that it would contravene the First Data Protection Principle.
- The Trust has a duty under the Data Protection Act 2018 and specifically the First Data Protection Principle to ensure personal data regarding staff and patients is processed fairly and lawfully. Disclosure of such data which may identify an individual, either through the data alone or other data in conjunction with that data which may identify an individual would therefore breach this principle.
- The Data Protection Act 2018 defines sensitive personal data to include data relating to the “physical or mental health or condition” of a person. Any such information about specific individuals falls within this category and disclosure of such data including statistical data, with any potential likelihood of identification would breach the Data Protection Act 2018.