

FOI – 1995

20th December 2023

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

Q1. 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

Q2. 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

There were <5 patients admitted as an in-patient.

The Trust has a legal duty to protect patient confidentiality and, in line with this duty, the figure <5 has been provided where figures are very low. This is because of the potential risk of identification of an individual. In reaching this decision the Trust has taken into account the small geographical area which the Trust serves and the sensitivity of the information requested. In addition the Trust has taken into account the fact that all information disclosed in response to an FOI is disclosed to the 'world at large' and is published on the Trust website.

S 40 (2) (third party information) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 has been applied to exempt the redacted information from disclosure. The Trust does not consider the disclosure of the redacted information to be fair to the individuals concerned as there is the potential risk of identification of an individual(s) which they would not expect, and which would therefore breach the fairness element of the first principle of the Data Protection Act 2018

Treated in A&E

There were <5 patients treated in A&E.

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Q3. How many patients were treated by the rheumatology department in the past 3 months with the following:

Tocilizumab – for any disease

Tocilizumab for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) only

Tocilizumab for giant cell arteritis (GCA) only

Tocilizumab – for any disease	45
Tocilizumab for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) only	25
Tocilizumab for giant cell arteritis (GCA) only	16

**current patient numbers

Date provided by Pharmacy Department

Q4. How many patients were treated by the ophthalmology department (for any disease) in the past 3 months with Tocilizumab?

Ophthalmology Services are managed by the Belfast Health & Social Care Trust and you can contact them at:

Public Liaison
Belfast HSC Trust
1st Floor, Nore Villa
Knockbracken Healthcare Park
Belfast, BT8 8BH

Email: publicliaison@belfasttrust.hscni.net

Q5. How many patients were treated in A&E in the past 3 months for giant cell arteritis (GCA) with Tocilizumab?

Information not held.

Email: foi.team@southerntrust.hscni.net