

Ref. No: 0247
Date: 12/09/23
Subject: Biologic Medicines in Dermatology

REQUEST

I have a Freedom of Information query regarding the use of Biologic medicines in Dermatology. Could you please answer the following two questions:

1. How many patients were treated in the last 3 months by the Dermatology department (for any medical condition) with the following biologic drugs:

- Adalimumab - Humira
- Adalimumab Biosimilar
- Apremilast
- Bimekizumab
- Brodalumab
- Certolizumab
- Deucravacitinib
- Dimethyl fumarate
- Etanercept - Enbrel
- Etanercept Biosimilar
- Guselkumab
- Infliximab - Remicade
- Infliximab Biosimilar
- Ixekizumab
- Risankizumab
- Secukinumab
- Tildrakizumab
- Ustekinumab

2. How many patients were treated in the last 3 months by the Dermatology department for Psoriasis ONLY in the last three months with the following:

- Ciclosporin
- Methotrexate - any form and strength
- Methotrexate injections 15mg and above

RESPONSE

1. How many patients were treated in the last 3 months by the Dermatology department (for any medical condition) with the following biologic drugs:

Treatment	No. of Patients
Adalimumab - Humira	21
Adalimumab Biosimilar	285
Apremilast	57
Bimekizumab	0
Brodalumab	0
Certolizumab	<5
Deucravacitinib	0
Dimethyl fumarate	12
Etanercept - Enbrel	0
Etanercept Biosimilar	0
Guselkumab	19
Infliximab - Remicade	0
Infliximab Biosimilar	0
Ixekizumab	13
Risankizumab	23
Secukinumab	49
Tildrakizumab	0
Ustekinumab	43

Section 40: personal information

We are unable to provide precise figures when those figures refer to individuals in volumes of 5 or less due to the risk that individuals will be re-identified, as we are required to protect their identity under the General Data Protection Regulations & Data Protection Act 2018. In such circumstances Section 40(2) and Section 40(3) of the Freedom of Information Act apply. In this case, our view is that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle which states that personal data should be processed "lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner". It is the lawful aspect of this principle which, in our view, would be breached by disclosure, and in such circumstances, Section 40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure.

2. How many patients were treated in the last 3 months by the Dermatology department for Psoriasis ONLY in the last three months with the following:

- **Ciclosporin**
- **Methotrexate - any form and strength**
- **Methotrexate injections 15mg and above**

Section 12: cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit

The Trust would need to manually review the records of Dermatology patients throughout the requested time period to provide a response, which we estimate would exceed the appropriate time limits.

Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act, Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust does not have to comply with a request where it is estimated that the cost of compliance would exceed the appropriate limit of £450. The appropriate limit is specified within the regulations and represents the estimated cost of one person spending 2½ working days answering the request, either wholly or partially.