

Reference:	FOI.9248.22
Subject:	Antifungal treatment
Date of Request:	27 June 2022

Requested:

I would be grateful if you would please answer the following questions concerning antifungal treatment within your organisation.

1. What is the number of patients in the last 12 months treated with the following product lines:
 - a. Anidulafungin
 - b. Caspofungin
 - c. Micafungin
2. What is the split of indication over the last 12 months for the following product lines:
 - a. Anidulafungin
 - b. Caspofungin
 - c. Micafungin
3. For each of the indication splits of the 3 product lines mentioned previously (anidulafungin, caspofungin and micafungin from Q2) list the average length of treatment time.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with the information requested for questions 2 and 3, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the "appropriate limit" as stated in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The "appropriate limit" represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours (or 2 ½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

In order to provide you with all of the information being requested, the UHB would need to undertake a manual search of all patient records that received antifungal treatments to provide a breakdown of the treatment by indication and to identify the length of the treatments, for the requested twelve (12) month period, as this information is not recorded centrally.

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), which provides an exemption from a public authority's obligation to comply with a request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed the appropriate limit.

However, under Section 16 of the FoIA, we are required as a public authority, to provide advice and assistance so far as it is reasonable, to individuals who have made a request under FoIA. Therefore, the UHB provides the information it holds for question 1 below.

1. The UHB provides, within the table below, the number of patients treated with the listed product lines, during the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

Product line	Number
Anidulafungin	*
Caspofungin	31
Micafungin	0

Where the figure in the table has been replaced with an asterisk (*), the UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of patients, due to the low number of cases (5 and under), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed.

The UHB is therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of information Act 2000 (FoIA). This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulations (UK GDPR), as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles 6 and 9 of the UK GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore, there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the Data Protection Act 2018/UK GDPR define personal data as data which relates to a living individual who can be identified solely from that data, or from that data and other information, which is in the possession of the data controller.