

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.10511.22
<b>Subject:</b>	Fungal infections
<b>Date of Request:</b>	14 December 2022

**Requested:**

1. In the last 12 months, how many patients have been treated (for any condition) with the following drugs?
  - Amphotericin B (Ambisome)
  - Caspofungin (Cancidas)
  - Isavuconazole (Cresemba)
  - Posaconazole (Noxafil)
  - Voriconazole (VFEND)
- 2a. In the last 12 months, how many hospital inpatients were diagnosed with Aspergillosis (ICD10 code: B44)?
- 2b. Of the above patients diagnosed with Aspergillosis in the last 12 months, how many patients were treated with the following drugs?
  - Amphotericin B (Ambisome)
  - Caspofungin (Cancidas)
  - Isavuconazole (Cresemba)
  - Posaconazole (Noxafil)
  - Voriconazole (VFEND)
- 3a. In the last 12 months, how many hospital inpatients were diagnosed with Mucormycosis (ICD10 code: B46)?
- 3b. Of the above patients diagnosed with Mucormycosis in the last 12 months, how many patients were treated with the following drugs?
  - Amphotericin B (Ambisome)
  - Isavuconazole (Cresemba)
  - Posaconazole (Noxafil)

**Response:**

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with the information requested for question 2b, 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 2½ 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 of individuals diagnosed with Aspergillosis during the twelve (12) month period, to identify those that received the named fungal treatments, as this information is not recorded centrally. The cost of your request is estimated as:

51 patient records @ 30 minutes per record = 25.5 hours  
25.5 hours @ £25 per hour = £637.50

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 the FoIA. Therefore, the UHB has responded to questions 1, 2a and 3 below.

1. The UHB provides, within the table overleaf, the number of patients treated with the listed medications, as recorded on the UHB's Pharmacy System, during the twelve (12) month period from 1 December 2021 to 30 November 2022.

Medication	Number
Amphotericin B	12
Caspofungin	40
Isavuconazole	8
Posaconazole	16
Voriconazole	31

- 2a. The UHB provides, within the table below, the number of all hospital inpatients that were diagnosed with Aspergillosis (ICD10 code: B44), as recorded on the UHB's Welsh Patient Administration System (WPAS), during the twelve (12) month period from 1 December 2021 to 30 November 2022.

Month	Number
December 2021	*
January 2022	10
February 2022	7
March 2022	*
April 2022	6
May 2022	*
June 2022	7
July 2022	*
August 2022	*
September 2022	*
October 2022	*
November 2022	0
Total	52

Where the figures in the tables have 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.

3a. The UHB confirms that no inpatients were recorded on WPAS as being diagnosed with Mucormycosis (ICD10 code: B46) across all UHB hospitals, during the twelve (12) month period from 1 December 2021 to 30 November 2022.

3b. Not applicable.