

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.19299.26
<b>Subject:</b>	Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA)
<b>Date of Request:</b>	14 January 2026

**Requested:**

1. How many patients have a current diagnosis of Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA) (ICD10 codes M31.5 or M31.6) at your Trust?
2. How many patients have been newly diagnosed with Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA) (ICD10 codes M31.5 or M31.6) in the past 3 months?
3. How many patients were treated by the Rheumatology department for Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA) (ICD10 codes M31.5 or M31.6)?
4. 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
5. How many patients were treated by the ophthalmology department (for any disease) in the past 3 months with Tocilizumab?
6. How many patients were treated in A&E in the past 3 months for giant cell arteritis (GCA) with Tocilizumab?
7. 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
  - Treated in A&E

**Response:**

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with the number of patients for questions 6 and 7, due to the low number of cases (less than 5), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. Therefore, the UHB is withholding these details under Section 40(2) of the FoIA.

This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)/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 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 DPA and UK GDPR define personal data as data that 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.

1. The UHB confirms it has one hundred and seventy-one (171) patients diagnosed with GCA, at 31 January 2026.

2. The UHB estimates, based on the number of patients on the Rheumatology follow up list for GCA, that sixty (60) patients were newly diagnosed with GCA, irrelevant of ICD codes, during the period 1 November 2025 to 31 January 2026.
3. The UHB confirms it has one hundred and forty-seven (147) patients currently being treated for GCA, as held on the UHB's Rheumatology treatment list, at 31 January 2026
4. The UHB provides the information held for the period 1 November 2025 to 31 January 2026, within the table below.

<b>Medication</b>	<b>Number</b>
Tocilizumab – for any disease	89
Tocilizumab for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) only	71
Tocilizumab for giant cell arteritis (GCA) only	15

5. The UHB confirms that zero (0) patients were recorded on its Pharmacy system as being treated with Tocilizumab by the Ophthalmology Department for any condition, during the period 1 November 2025 to 31 January 2026.
6. & 7. An exemption under Section 40 of the FoIA has been applied.