

Reference:	FOI.15218.24
Subject:	Lupus
Date of Request:	6 September 2024

Requested:

- Does Hywel Dda University Health Board treat patients diagnosed with Lupus (systemic lupus erythematosus including lupus nephritis)? Yes/No

If No, please see question 2
If Yes, please see questions 3 & 4
- If Hywel Dda University Health Board does not treat Lupus (systemic lupus erythematosus including lupus nephritis) are patients referred to a tertiary/ specialist treatment centre? Yes/No

If Yes, please state which treatment centre:
- Does Hywel Dda University Health Board have local guidelines/ clinical pathways/ protocols (including shared care protocols) for the treatment of patients diagnosed with Lupus (systemic lupus erythematosus including lupus nephritis)? Yes/No

If Yes, please can a copy be provided.
- How many patients were treated at Hywel Dda University Health Board for Lupus using belimumab in 2023?
- How many patients were treated at Hywel Dda University Health Board for Lupus using rituximab in 2023?
- How many patients were treated at Hywel Dda University Health Board for Lupus using voclosporin in 2023?

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all of the information requested, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the 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 the information requested for question 5, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all Lupus patient records, and cross reference with the Pharmacy systems, to identify any information that fulfils your request, as this 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, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance. Therefore, the UHB provides the accessible information it holds below.

1. The UHB confirms that it does treat patients diagnosed with Lupus.
2. Not applicable.
3. The UHB confirms that it refers to the British Society for Rheumatology (BSR) guidance for the management of Lupus. A link to the guidance is provided below:

[British Society for Rheumatology guideline for the management of systemic lupus erythematosus in adults | Rheumatology | Oxford Academic \(oup.com\)](#)

4. The UHB is unable to provide you with the 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. Therefore, the UHB is withholding these details under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA).

This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)/UK General Data Protection Regulations, 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.

5. Section 12 exemption applied. However, under Section 16 of the FoIA, the UHB confirms that two hundred and sixty-three (263) patients received the medication rituximab, for any condition, during the 2023 calendar year.
6. The UHB confirms that no voclosporin was dispensed during the 2023 calendar year.