

Reference:	FOI.16061.24
Subject:	Meropenem
Date of Request:	26 November 2024

Requested:

The date range required for this request would be 01.12.2023 – 01.12.2024.

Could you provide answers to the below questions for each hospital in your trust, please?

1. How many doses of each of the following strengths of Meropenem do you administer annually?
 - 500mg
 - 1 gram
 - 2 grams
2. What are the main areas of your hospital where Meropenem is used?
3. What are the main conditions you use Meropenem to treat?
4. How do you currently administer Meropenem via bolus or infusion? If you infuse, do you use gravity or pump sets?
5. Where is your Meropenem currently reconstituted (e.g., wards or aseptic units)?
6. Do you face any challenges when administering Meropenem?
7. Do you frequently experience drug shortages of Meropenem?
8. How many medication errors do you experience per month when administering Meropenem?

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) has provided the number of vials and strengths of Meropenem issued from secondary care pharmacies only, between 1 December 2023 and 30 November 2024, in the below table:

Strength	Bronglais General Hospital (BGH)	Glangwili General Hospital (GGH)	Prince Philip Hospital (PPH)	Withybush General Hospital (WGH)
500mg	400	790	172	661
1g	6,080	15,047	4,592	7,429
2g	No usage			

2. The main departments of the UHB where Meropenem is used are:
 - Intensive Care Unit (ICU)
 - Respiratory
 - Oncology
 - Admissions if a patient has poor renal function and allergies
3. The main conditions that Meropenem is used to treat include:

- Neutropenic sepsis
 - Pleural empyema
 - Sepsis of unknown source in non-severe penicillin allergy or not responding to the first line treatment
 - Necrotising skin and soft tissue infections (SSTI)
4. The Bolus administration routine is most frequently used within the UHB; however, two grams (2g) would be administered via a gravity infusion set.
 5. Meropenem is currently reconstituted at ward level.
 6. The UHB can confirm that no challenges have been reported when administering Meropenem.
 7. The UHB is unaware of any shortages of Meropenem within the timeframe requested.
 8. There has been one (1) incident reported on Datix within the timeframe used for question 1.