

Reference:	FOI.9413.22
Subject:	Midazolam
Date of Request:	18 July 2022

Requested:

Please provide the following information related to the midazolam scandal during the covid-19 “pandemic”:

1. Please provide the total number of midazolam administered to ALL patients for each year between 2016-2021.
2. Please provide an explanation for the increase in midazolam administered during 2020.
3. For midazolam administered during 2020 ONLY, how many of those patients subsequently died?
4. Please provide copies of any and all documentation received by Hywel Dda UHB related to the use of midazolam on covid-positive patients.
5. Please provide details of any and all financial incentives, rewards or bonus payments paid to Hywel Dda UHB for administering midazolam to covid-positive patients.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all of the information requested for questions 1 and 3, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the “appropriate level” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. The “appropriate level” represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours (or 2½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, as well as locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

To provide all of the information requested, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all Midazolam prescriptions issued and cross-reference this with the UHB’s Welsh Patient Administration System (WPAS), to identify the number of patients that received the medication and identify those that died, in order to fulfil these parts of your request, 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 accessible information it holds below.

1. The UHB provides within the table below, the number and type of midazolam prescriptions issued to wards and clinical areas, during the calendar years 2016 to 2021.

Midazolam prescriptions issued	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
10 mg in 2ml injection	8,227	7,459	9,209	9,978	11,776	4,652
10 mg in 5ml injection	689	672	920	780	800	570
2.5 mg in 1ml Oral Liquid	500	200	600	700	305	95
50 mg in 10ml injection	0	0	0	20	0	0
50 mg in 50ml injection	209	211	143	209	155	317
Oromucosal (Epistatus)(5ml bottle) 10 mg in 1ml Oral Liquid	123	124	115	150	78	26
Oromucosal 10 mg in 2ml Oral Liquid	121	124	184	108	169	48
Oromucosal 2.5 mg in 0.5ml Oral Liquid	70	48	90	52	55	69
Oromucosal L 5 mg in 1ml Oral Liquid	150	149	149	101	127	34
Oromucosal L 7.5 mg in 1.5ml Oral Liquid	112	95	126	120	145	35
5 mg in 5ml injection	9,582	9,591	9,574	10,500	5,636	1,913

2. The UHB can confirm that during 2020, an increased stock of midazolam was retained in response to potential need, due to the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic.
3. Section 12 exemption applied. However, the UHB's DATIX incident reporting system has no records of patients that died as a result of midazolam, during the 2020 calendar year.
4. The UHB provides copies of the documents it holds relating to the use of midazolam at the following attachments:
 - Attachment 1 - Loc.COV.046 - Guidance for Care homes and hospices: Running an End Of Life (EOL) medicines reuse scheme
 - Attachment 2 - Loc.COV.046 - Quick Reference Guide to Prescribing End of Life Medications (Links to NatCOV.072)
 - Attachment 3 - NatCOV.072 - [End of Life Medicines Reuse Scheme in a care home or hospice setting](#)

The UHB also utilises the following advice and guidance, which can be accessed via the attached links:

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidance:

[Overview | COVID-19 rapid guideline: managing COVID-19 | Guidance | NICE](#)

The All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre Covid End of Life service:

<https://awttc.nhs.wales/covid-19-therapeutic-hub/end-of-life-covid-19-emergency-medicine-pack-service/>

Reuse of end of life medicines in hospices and care homes during COVID-19 (WHC/2020/008):

<https://gov.wales/reuse-end-life-medicines-hospices-and-care-homes-during-covid-19-whc2020008>

5. The UHB confirms that it has not received or made any financial incentives, rewards or bonus payments associated with the administration of midazolam.