

Reference:	FOI.9140.22
Subject:	Migraine medication
Date of Request:	10 June 2022

Requested:

Could you please tell me how many patients have been treated in the past 4 months with the following drugs:

- Erenumab (Aimovig) – for any disease
- Fremanezumab (Ajovy) – for any disease
- Galcanezumab (Emgality) – for any disease
- Botulinum Toxin (i.e., Botox, Dysport, Xeomin) – for migraine ONLY

Response:

Hywel 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 and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The “appropriate limit” represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours (or 2 ½ 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 requested, the UHB would need to undertake a manual search of all of the patients’ records that were prescribed Botulinum Toxin, to identify those that received the medication for the treatment of migraine only, during the requested period, as this information is not recorded centrally.

It is estimated that the cost of conducting this search would be:

177 records @ 15 minutes per record = 44.25 hours
44.25 hours @ £25 per hour = £1,106.25

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, within the table below, the number of patients that have been treated with the listed medications, and the number of patients treated with Botulinum Toxin for all indications, during the period 1 February to 31 May 2022.

Medication	Number
Erenumab (Aimovig)	*
Fremanezumab (Ajovy)	29
Galcanezumab (Emgality)	0
Botulinum Toxin (i.e., Botox, Dysport, Xeomin)	177 – All indications

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.