

Reference:	FOI.2589.20
Subject:	Ophthalmology treatments
Date of Request:	25 February 2020

Requested:

1. Within your trust how many patients over the last 12 months have received treatment with an anti VEGF therapy, who had not previously had anti VEGF therapy?

2. How many of these [from question 1] patients have received the following anti VEGF therapy in the last 12 months?
 - Ranibizumab
 - Bevacizumab
 - Aflibercept
 - Fluocinolone
 - Dexamethasone

3. Of the patients above, how many were treated for Wet Age Related Macular Degeneration (wAMD)?
 - Ranibizumab
 - Bevacizumab
 - Aflibercept
 - Fluocinolone
 - Dexamethasone

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with the number of patients who were prescribed anti-VEGF treatment or for what reason these treatments were prescribed, 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 (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 the number of patients that were prescribed anti-VEGF treatments, the UHB would need to cross reference the number of medication dispensed with the pharmacy records to identify the patient, then using this information, manually search the patient records to identify the reason for the prescription. It is estimated that conducting the search would cost:

9,337 prescriptions @ 2 minutes per prescription = 311.25 hours
 311.25 hours @ £25 per hours = £7,780.83

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, 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*.

Under section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the UHB has an obligation to provide advice and assistance. The UHB has therefore provided the number of anti-VEGF medications

that were dispensed during the requested timeframe as recorded by the UHB's pharmacy system, within the table below.

Treatment	Number dispensed
Aflibercept injection 40mg in 1ml	3264
Dexamethasone intravitreal implant 700mg	90
Fluocinolone Acetonide intravitreal implant 190mg	2
Ranibizumab injection 10mg in 1ml	5981
Total	9337