

Reference:	FOI.12946.23
Subject:	Treatment of giant cell arteritis
Date of Request:	22 October 2023

Requested:

1. Does your trust or health board treat giant cell arteritis (GCA)? If not, please provide the name of the hospital or trust that you refer GCA patients to.
2. In the past 3 months, how many patients with a primary diagnosis of GCA (ICD10 codes M31.5 or M31.6) were:
 - Admitted as an inpatient
 - Treated in A&E
3. How many patients were treated by the rheumatology department in the past 3 months with the following:
 - Tocilizumab – for any disease
 - Tocilizumab for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) only
 - Tocilizumab for giant cell arteritis (GCA) only
4. How many patients were treated by the ophthalmology department (for any disease) in the past 3 months with Tocilizumab?
5. How many patients were treated in A&E in the past 3 months for giant cell arteritis (GCA) with Tocilizumab?

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that it does treat Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA). Clinics are provided across the UHB's four (4) acute hospitals: Bronglais General Hospital (BGH), Glangwili General Hospital (GGH), Prince Phillip Hospital (PPH) and Withybush General Hospital (WGH). The UHB also provides GCA scanning at PPH and WGH.
2. The UHB provides, within the table below, the number of patients with a primary diagnosis of GCA that were admitted as an inpatient and those that were treated in an Accident & Emergency (A&E) Department, during the period 1 August to 31 October 2023.

	Number
Admitted as inpatient	*
Treated in A&E	0

Where the figure in the table has been replaced with an asterisk (*), the UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of patients, due to the low numbers of cases (less than 5), 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 (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.

3. The UHB is unable to provide the information exactly as requested, as the system does not hold historical data; it is a live recording system. Therefore, the UHB provides, within the table below, the number of patients that were treated by the Rheumatology Department with the listed medication for the conditions requested, as held on 7 November 2023.

Medication	Number
Tocilizumab	57
Tocilizumab for Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA)	72
Tocilizumab for GCA	7

4. The UHB confirms that no patients were treated with Tocilizumab by the Ophthalmology Department, during the period 1 August to 31 October 2023.
5. The UHB confirms that no patients with GCA were treated with the medication Tocilizumab in its A&E Departments, during the period 1 August to 31 October 2023.