

Reference:	FOI.13949.24
Subject:	Treatment of severe asthma
Date of Request:	5 March 2024

Your request and our response

I would be grateful if you could send me two outputs of data:

- A. From the electronic prescribing system the number of patients treated with specific medicines between the start of Oct 2023 to the end of Dec 2023, or the latest three-month period for which data is available. I have included a template below with details.
- B. From the hospital pharmacy database quantities of medicines used. See specification below and I would be grateful if this can be supplied in Excel or .csv format.

Please include data for all hospitals in the Health Board.

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with the information requested for question 2 below, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The “appropriate limit” represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours (or 2½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

In order to provide you with the data requested, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all identified prescriptions and cross reference with the patient’s medical record to identify the reason for treatment.

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, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance. Therefore, the UHB provides the accessible information it holds below.

Where the figures in the tables for section A question 3 and within Attachment 1 for section B have 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 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.

- A. Data on numbers of patients from the electronic prescribing system

1. How many patients were treated **in total, regardless of diagnosis**, with the following medicines in the 3 months between the start of October 2023 and end of December 2023?

The UHB provides, within the table overleaf as requested, the number of patients treated with the listed medications, for any condition, during the period 1 October to 31 December 2023.

Name of medicine	Number patients treated
Benralizumab (Fasenra)	68
Dupilumab (Dupixent)	76
Mepolizumab (Nucala)	29
Omalizumab (Xolair)	19
Reslizumab (Cinqaero)	0
Tezepelumab (Tezspire)	31

2. How many patients were treated for **severe asthma**, atopic dermatitis, CRwNP and other indications with the following medicines in the 3 months between the start of October 2023 and end of December 2023?

Name of medicine	Severe asthma (please include all types or references to asthma)	Chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyps (CRwNP)	Atopic Dermatitis	Other
Benralizumab (Fasenra)	Section 12 exemption applied	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dupilumab (Dupixent)				
Mepolizumab (Nucala)			N/A	
Omalizumab (Xolair)			N/A	
Reslizumab (Cinqaero)		N/A	N/A	N/A
Tezepelumab (Tezspire)		N/A	N/A	N/A

3. How many patients were treated **by department** in total, regardless of diagnosis, with the following medicines in the 3 months between the start of October 2023 and end of December 2023?

The UHB provides, within the table below as requested, the number of patients treated with the listed medications by the requested departments, for any condition, during the period 1 October to 31 December 2023.

Name of medicine	Respiratory departments	Dermatology departments	Other
Benralizumab (Fasenra)	52	0	18
Dupilumab (Dupixent)	11	59	6
Mepolizumab (Nucala)	25	0	*
Omalizumab (Xolair)	0	15	7
Reslizumab (Cinqaero)	0	0	0
Tezepelumab (Tezspire)	7	0	26

B. data on usage of medicines from the hospital pharmacy system

Fields to include in the data extract from the hospital pharmacy database:

Field	
Calendar year	
Calendar month	
Name of Health Board / Trust	
Drug substance (INN name of drug)	
Drug product pack name	Virtual or actual product pack name
Quantity unit of measure (UOM)	e.g. tablet, mL, vial, the unit in which the quantity can be measured
Quantity issued	

Filters

- Time period: Jan 2019 to Feb 2024, or the latest available month
- Drugs to include:
 - Benralizumab (Fasenra)
 - Dupilumab (Dupixent)
 - Mepolizumab (Nucala)
 - Omalizumab (Xolair)
 - Reslizumab (Cinqaero)
 - Tezepelumab (Tezspire)

The UHB provides the information, within the attached spreadsheet, as requested, at Attachment 1.