

Reference:	FOI.14967.24
Subject:	Treatment of severe asthma
Date of Request:	30 July 2024

Your request and our response

Treatment of severe asthma in secondary care.

I would be grateful if you could respond with the number of patients treated with specific medicines between the start of April 2024 to the end of June 2024, or the latest three-month period for which data is available. 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 questions 2 and 4, 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 table for question 3 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.

1. How many patients were treated in total, regardless of diagnosis, with the following medicines in the 3 months between the start of April 2024 and end of June 2024?

The UHB provides, within the table below, as requested, the number of patients treated with the listed medications, for any condition, during the period 1 April to 30 June 2024.

Name of medicine	Number patients treated
1.1 Benralizumab (Fasenra)	70
1.2 Dupilumab (Dupixent)	90
1.3 Mepolizumab (Nucala)	26
1.4 Omalizumab (Xolair)	15
1.5 Reslizumab (Cinqaero)	0
1.6 Tezepelumab (Tezspire)	55

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 April 2024 and end of June 2024?

Name of medicine	Severe asthma (please include all types or references to asthma)	Chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyps (CRwNP)	Atopic Dermatitis	Other
2.1 Benralizumab (Fasenra)	Section 12 exemption applied	N/A	N/A	N/A
2.2 Dupilumab (Dupixent)				
2.3 Mepolizumab (Nucala)			N/A	
2.4 Omalizumab (Xolair)			N/A	
2.5 Reslizumab (Cinqaero)		N/A	N/A	N/A
2.6 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 April 2024 and end of June 2024?

The UHB provides, within the table below as requested, the number of patients treated with the listed medications by the named departments, for any condition, during the period 1 April to 30 June 2024.

Name of medicine	Respiratory departments	Dermatology departments	Other
3.1 Benralizumab (Fasenra)	57	0	13
3.2 Dupilumab (Dupixent)	12	76	*
3.3 Mepolizumab (Nucala)	22	0	*
3.4 Omalizumab (Xolair)	0	13	*
3.5 Reslizumab (Cinqaero)	0	0	0
3.6 Tezepelumab (Tezspire)	37	0	23

4. How many patients were treated for Asthma the following medicines in the 3 months between the start of April 2024 and end of June 2024?

Please answer this question for ICS-LABA combination medicines e.g. Symbicort, Seretide and other branded or generic versions of the combination.

A section 12 exemption has been applied. However, under Section 16 of the FoIA, the UHB provides, within the table overleaf, as requested, the number of inhalers with the listed medications issued, for any condition, during the period 1 April to 30 June 2024.

Name of medicine	Pack strength	Number issued
4.1 Fluticasone with salmeterol	All strengths	48
4.2 Fluticasone with salmeterol	500mcg fluticasone / 50mcg salmeterol	6
4.3 Budesonide with formoterol	All strengths	118
4.4 Budesonide with formoterol	400mcg budesonide / 12mcg formoterol	13
4.5 Fluticasone with vilanterol	All strengths	43
4.6 Fluticasone with vilanterol	184mcg fluticasone / 22mcg vilanterol	18
4.7 Beclometasone with formoterol	All strengths	214
4.8 Beclometasone with formoterol	200mcg beclomethasone / 6mcg formoterol	56
4.9 Fluticasone with formoterol	All strengths	27
4.10 Fluticasone with formoterol	250mcg fluticasone / 10mcg formoterol	2