

Ref. No: 2295
Date: 14/01/26
Subject: Giant Cell Arteritis

REQUEST & RESPONSE

Q1. How many patients have a current diagnosis of Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA) (ICD10 codes M31.5 or M31.6) at your Trust?

Section 12: cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit

Following a thorough assessment, we regret to inform you that Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust is unable to comply with your request, as doing so would exceed the cost limit set out under **Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000**.

Section 12 states that a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request for information if it estimates that the cost of doing so would exceed the **appropriate limit**, which is currently set at **£450** for NHS organisations. This equates to **18 hours of staff time**, calculated at a standard rate of £25 per hour, as defined in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

In this case, fulfilling your request would require the search of all outpatient clinic medical records as the Trust does not hold this information in a simple format and a report cannot be obtained. The Trust has estimated that locating, retrieving, and extracting the relevant information would significantly exceed the 18-hour threshold, even with reasonable efforts to narrow the scope.

We are therefore applying Section 12 of the Act and will not be proceeding with the request in its current form.

However, we would be happy to assist you in refining your request to bring it within the cost limit. For example, narrowing the timeframe, specifying particular departments, or focusing on a specific aspect of the information may help reduce the burden of compliance.

Please let us know if you would like support in revising your request.

Q2. How many patients have been newly diagnosed with Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA) (ICD10 codes M31.5 or M31.6) in the past 3 months?

The Trust is unable to answer this and will ignore as per your Instruction. If you are unable to provide "new patients" please to ignore that part of the question.

Q3.. How many patients were treated by the Rheumatology department for Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA) (ICD10 codes M31.5 or M31.6)?

Section 12: cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit

Following a thorough assessment, we regret to inform you that Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust is unable to comply with your request, as doing so would exceed the cost limit set out under **Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000**.

Section 12 states that a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request for information if it estimates that the cost of doing so would exceed the **appropriate limit**, which is currently set at **£450** for NHS organisations. This equates to **18 hours of staff time**, calculated at a standard rate of £25 per hour, as defined in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

In this case, fulfilling your request would require the search of all outpatient clinic medical records as the Trust does not hold this information in a simple format and a report cannot be obtained. The Trust has estimated that locating, retrieving, and extracting the relevant information would significantly exceed the 18-hour threshold, even with reasonable efforts to narrow the scope.

We are therefore applying Section 12 of the Act and will not be proceeding with the request in its current form.

However, we would be happy to assist you in refining your request to bring it within the cost limit. For example, narrowing the timeframe, specifying particular departments, or focusing on a specific aspect of the information may help reduce the burden of compliance.

Please let us know if you would like support in revising your request.

Q4. How many patients were treated by the rheumatology department in the past 3 months with the following:

- **Tocilizumab – for any disease - 63**
- **Tocilizumab for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) only**
- **Tocilizumab for giant cell arteritis (GCA) only**

The above details have been provided by Pharmacy and we can only provide the total prescribed for Tocilizumab. To provide the exact number for patients all the medical records would need to be checked and the trust is applying the exemption section 12 of the FOI act see answer for q1

Q5. How many patients were treated by the ophthalmology department (for any disease) in the past 3 months with Tocilizumab?

0

Q6. How many patients were treated in A&E in the past 3 months for giant cell arteritis (GCA) with Tocilizumab? **0**

Q7. 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

| Month | Inpatient admissions STHK | Inpatient admissions S&O | Inpatient admissions MWL |
|-----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| September | <5 | <5 | <5 |
| October | <5 | <5 | 6 |
| November | 0 | <5 | <5 |

Attended A&E

| Month | A&E Attendances STHK | A&E Attendances S&O | A&E Attendances MWL |
|-----------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| September | <5 | 0 | <5 |
| October | <5 | <5 | <5 |
| November | <5 | <5 | <5 |

<5

Due to the low number of patients which is less than five for the period, the Trust is withholding the actual number under section 40 – Personal Information of the Freedom of Information Act due to likelihood of identification of the individual(s).