

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTHB_487_18

You asked:

1. Within your Health Board how many patients do you have diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis?

I can confirm that the Health Board does not centrally record this information. Due to the nature of the condition, the way in which it is recorded and the wide scope of the service we are unable to easily extract the level of detail you have requested.

The information you require would be recorded within an individual patient's health record as part of their ongoing care. To provide you with this information, would require a manual trawl and significantly exceed the 18 hours time and £450 cost limit set out within Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

2. How many Rheumatoid Arthritis patients have had an IFR [Individual Funding Request] put in for them to have an advanced treatment (i.e. biologic or JAK inhibitor) in the past 12 months?

The Individual Patient Funding Request process is not appropriate means of funding cohorts of patients. Instead, an IPFR application can be submitted when the clinician considers the clinical presentation of a particular patient to differ significantly clinically from the cohort of patients with rheumatoid arthritis. Therefore, the number of such requests is low. During the last financial year (2017/18), the health board has received less than 5 IPFR applications that requested a treatment for a patient with rheumatoid arthritis that falls outside recommended guidance.

* Please note exact figures have been withheld due to the low numbers involved. Where numbers are low we have considered that there is the potential for the individuals to be identified from the information provided, when considered with other information that may also be in the public domain. Also, responses under the Freedom of Information Act are made available to the public at large. The data is classed as personal data as defined under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 and its disclosure would be contrary to the data protection principles and constitute as unfair and unlawful processing in regard to Articles 5, 6, and 9 of GDPR. We are therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

3. How many patients do you have diagnosed with moderate Rheumatoid Arthritis? [moderate is defined within the guidelines as patients with a DAS score of between 3.2 and 5.1]

Please see response to question 1.

4. How many moderate Rheumatoid Arthritis patients have had an IFR [Individual Funding Request] put in for them to have an advanced treatment (i.e. biologic or JAK inhibitor) in the past 12 months?

Please see response to question 2.

5. How many moderate Rheumatoid Arthritis patients have been granted an IFR request for an advanced treatment (i.e. biologic or JAK inhibitor) in the past 12 months?

All.

6. If possible, please state the number of patients and the name of an advanced treatment (i.e. biologic or JAK inhibitor) provided

Please see response to question 2. Figures and specific details are being withheld due to the low numbers involved.