

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_213_20

You asked:

1) How many patients were treated within your health board after taking an overdose of medication for mental health (due to misuse) eg benzodiazepines such as xanax / alprazolam (or fake xanax), valium / diazepam, klonopin / clonazepam.

a) 2016

b) 2017

c) 2018

d) 2019

e) 2020 so far (month-by-month figures please)

Please see provided in the table below the number of patients admitted to the Health Board as an inpatient, as a result of self-harm/overdose due to the misuse of Benzodiazepines (Alprazolam, Diazepam, Clonazepam).

Where the figures are less than 5, this has been denoted by **. The 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.

Inpatient Episodes with an ICD10 Diagnosis of T424/X61					
Inpatient Episodes	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*
January	**	6	11	10	**
February	**	6	5	7	5
March	**	10	**	8	**
April	5	**	**	5	**
May	6	**	5	8	**
June	**	**	5	**	**
July	**	7	15	7	
August	**	9	8	6	
September	10	9	5	9	
October	6	5	9	7	
November	5	5	6	**	
December	7	**	**	**	
Total	59	70	80	76	16

* Please note that due to clinical coding completeness levels/guidelines the 2020 data is incomplete.

2) How many deaths have occurred within your health board as a result of overdose / misuse of mental health drugs eg benzodiazepines such as xanax / alprazolam (or fake xanax), valium / diazepam, klonopin / clonazepam at:

a) 2016

b) 2017

c) 2018

d) 2019

e) 2020 so far (month-by-month figures please)

I can confirm that the Health Board does hold this information. However, to release the specific information in the way that you have requested would mean disclosure of low numbers.

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.

In our view disclosure of these low figures would breach 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.

However, in order to fulfil our obligation under Section 16 of the Act to provide advice and assistance, I can confirm that less than 5 deaths occurred as a result of self-harm/overdose due to the misuse of Benzodiazepines (Alprazolam, Diazepam, Clonazepam) from January 2016 to June 2020.