

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_260_22

You asked:

I have a freedom of information request and I would greatly appreciate if you could answer the following questions.

Q1. How many patients were treated in the last 12 months (for any disease) with:

- a) Ethambutol + rifampicin + Clarithromycin/azithromycin**
- b) Ethambutol + rifampicin + Clarithromycin/azithromycin with the addition of injectable (IV) or nebulised Amikacin**

Our Medicine Management system does not hold the information in a usable format of the number of patients who have been prescribed the medications listed as a combination therapy.

The system captures the number of issues of each drug individually (not number of patients), but it would not show if this combination was prescribed. For the clarithromycin and the rifampicin in particular would include a significant number of patients who are on those antibiotics for non TB indications.

Therefore, we can confirm that the Health Board does not centrally record this information. The detailed 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.

Q2. How many patients have been diagnosed in the last 12 months for the following diseases?

- a) Non-tuberculosis mycobacterium (NTM) (ICD10 codes: A31.0/A31.9)**
- b) Bronchiectasis (ICD10 codes J47/Q33.4)**

We do not centrally record the number of diagnoses of patients. A diagnosis is usually given at primary care or an outpatient appointment, the only data we capture centrally is at an inpatient/daycase level.

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.

Q3. Which other hospital trust or health care professional would you contact if you require advice on non-tuberculosis mycobacterium (NTM) infections?

Dependent on case. May seek advice from other health boards (e.g. Cardiff & Vale UHB; Aneurin Bevan UHB) or NTM Network. Complex cases are discussed and advice sought from the Consultant in Infectious diseases, Public Health Wales. There is an All Wales MDT every 3 months.

Q4. Do you discuss difficult to manage non-tuberculosis mycobacterium (NTM) patients as a Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)?

At present, these cases would be discussed at local lung MDT meetings. However, the Health Board are in the process of setting up a local NTM MDT which will meet bi monthly.