

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_215_23

You asked:

Please may I request the following information from your health board. For ease of collation, the information could be provided in the tables provided after each question.

Antidepressants in this instance refers to any of the following classifications of drugs: SSRIs, SNRIs, NASSAs, TCAs, SARIs, MAOIs.

1. The numbers total of patients who have been prescribed antidepressants in the each of the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 so far.

We can confirm that the Health Boards Medicines Management system does not keep patient level prescribing data.

Although we hold the number of dispensed items, this does not correlate to one patient per month. For example, it can be a week's supply, a month's supply or one patient could be on more than one antidepressant. Therefore, the information captured, would not provide you with an accurate account of the number of individuals on antidepressants.

2. The number of patients under the age of 18 who have been prescribed antidepressants in each of the same years.

We can confirm that the Health Boards Medicines Management system does not keep patient level prescribing data and so is unable to report prescribing of antidepressants to age ranges.

3. The total number of patients under the age of 18 prescribed each of the following types of antidepressants in each of the same years

Please see information below which our CAMHS service have been able to provide, relating to patients under the age of 18.

	Under 18s 2018	Under 18s 2019	Under 18s 2020	Under 18s 2021	Under 18s 2022	Under 18s 2023 so far
SSRIs	249	332	449	550	587	460
SNRIs	0	0	0	0	0	0
NASSAs	n/a	0	**	**	**	**
TCAs	0	0	0	0	0	0
SARIs	0	0	0	0	0	0
MAOIs	0	0	0	0	0	0

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.

4. The number of patients under 18 who have been prescribed antidepressants in each of the same years, specifically as part of the treatment of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and related symptoms.

We can confirm that the Health Board does not centrally record this information. 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.

5. The number of patients under 18 who have begun Talking Therapies ('psychotherapy') in each of the same years.

Please see response to question 4.