



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Cwm Taf Morgannwg
University Health Board



Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_193_25

You asked:

This is an information request relating to NHS Trusts/Health Boards buying and supplying Paracetamol and ibuprofen.

Please include the following information for the financial years 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25:

1. The total number of individual patients to whom paracetamol and ibuprofen were prescribed by your Trust annually.

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

Due to the way the data is recorded in our Medicines Management electronic dispensing systems, we are unable to provide the data by individual patient numbers. 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. The total amount spent by your Trust on supplying prescribed paracetamol and Ibuprofen in each of those financial years.

Please find below tables (Q2 & Q3) populated with the information Medicines Management are able to provide at this current time.

The information provided in the tables below (Q2 & Q3) are for both Primary and Secondary Care sectors. However, we would like to advise that for 2024/25 for Primary Care we are only able to provide information for the period April 24 to February 25 because March 25 is not yet available.

Medicine	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	2024/25 £
Paracetamol	799,980	833,878	796,603
Ibuprofen	304,119	328,984	297,353

3. If available, a breakdown of the form in which paracetamol was prescribed (e.g., tablets, capsules, liquid suspension, etc.) and associated costs for each form.

Narrative as above in response to Q2.

Product	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	2024/25 £
PARACETAMOL (CALPOL INFANT SACHETS) 120 mg in 5mL Oral Liquid	85	152	0
PARACETAMOL 250 mg in 5mL Oral Liquid	37,976	48,826	53,931
PARACETAMOL 120 mg in 5mL Oral Liquid	2,439	3,078	2,088
Paracetamol 250mg/5ml Oral Suspension Sugar Free	91,223	96,612	125,358
Paracetamol 500mg/5ml Oral Suspension Sugar Free	10,417	12,975	17,610
PARACETAMOL 1 g in 100mL Intravenous Infusion	46,759	43,644	52,262
PARACETAMOL 500 mg in 50mL Intravenous Infusion	0	2,658	1,843
PARACETAMOL 500 mg Capsules	27,614	26	1
PARACETAMOL 500 mg Tablets	531,866	569,343	469,512
PARACETAMOL 500 mg Effervescent Tablets	0	3,112	3,570
Paracetamol 500mg Soluble Tablets	47,230	48,618	62,750
PARACETAMOL 1 g Suppositories	3,309	3,297	3,004
PARACETAMOL 120 mg Suppositories	36	36	108
PARACETAMOL 125 mg Suppositories	136	126	906
PARACETAMOL 240 mg Suppositories	848	995	823
PARACETAMOL 250 mg Suppositories	0	6	0
PARACETAMOL 500 mg Suppositories	0	374	2,836
PARACETAMOL 60 mg Suppositories	42	0	0

4. What are the specific conditions which qualify a patient to be prescribed paracetamol or ibuprofen? Or what is your general policy for qualifying a prescription for paracetamol or ibuprofen?

The British National Formulary (BNF) include mild to moderate pain, pyrexia and acute migraine as indications for paracetamol. The BNF for Children include pain and pyrexia with discomfort, post-operative pain, post-immunisation pyrexia as indications.

The BNF indications for ibuprofen vary slightly depending on the formulation of the medicine. They include pain and inflammation in rheumatic disease and other musculoskeletal disorders, mild to moderate pain including dysmenorrhoea, postoperative analgesia, dental pain, mild to moderate pain and acute migraine. Also symptoms of colds and influenza, neuralgia, fever, and dental pain and for pain relief in musculoskeletal conditions and

as an adjunct in knee or hand osteoarthritis. For children the indications listed include pain and inflammation of soft-tissue injuries, pyrexia with discomfort, pain and inflammation in rheumatic disease including juvenile idiopathic arthritis, post-immunisation pyrexia

Both paracetamol and ibuprofen are included in guidelines from the National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and the All Wales Pharmacological Management of Pain Guidance amongst others. Registered health care professionals in all sectors are expected to remain up to date with guidelines and other advisory sources to support them in making safe, rational and evidence-based decisions about treatment.