

Ref. No: 0919
Date: 08/05/24
Subject: Giant Cell Arteritis

REQUEST

1. Does your Trust or health board treat giant cell arteritis (GCA)? If not, please provide the name of the hospital or Trust that you refer GCA patients to.
2. In the past 3 months, how many patients with a primary diagnosis of GCA (ICD10 codes M31.5 or M31.6) were:
 - Admitted as an inpatient
 - Treated in A&E
3. How many patients were treated by the Rheumatology Department in the past 3 months with the following:
 - Tocilizumab – for any disease
 - Tocilizumab for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) only
 - Tocilizumab for giant cell arteritis (GCA) only
4. How many patients were treated by the Ophthalmology Department (for any disease) in the past 3 months with Tocilizumab?
5. How many patients were treated in A&E in the past 3 months for giant cell arteritis (GCA) with Tocilizumab?

RESPONSE

St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust became a single legal entity known as Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust on 1st July 2023, as such parts of the response may be provided in two sections relating to the hospital sites of each of the legacy organisations.

1. Does your Trust or health board treat giant cell arteritis (GCA)? If not, please provide the name of the hospital or Trust that you refer GCA patients to.

Yes

2. In the past 3 months, how many patients with a primary diagnosis of GCA (ICD10 codes M31.5 or M31.6) were:

| | No. Patients |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Admitted as an inpatient | <5 |
| Treated in A&E | 26 |

Section 40: personal information

We are unable to provide precise figures when those figures refer to individuals in volumes of 5 or less due to the risk that individuals will be re-identified, as we are required to protect their identity under the General Data Protection Regulations & Data Protection Act 2018. In such circumstances Section 40(2) and Section 40(3) of the Freedom of Information Act apply. In this case, our view is that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle which states that personal data should be processed “lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner”. It is the lawful aspect of this principle which, in our view, would be breached by disclosure, and in such circumstances, Section 40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure.

3. How many patients were treated by the Rheumatology Department in the past 3 months with the following:

| | No. Patients |
|---|--------------|
| Tocilizumab – for any disease | 49 |
| Tocilizumab for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) only | 20 |
| Tocilizumab for giant cell arteritis (GCA) only | <5 |

Section 40: personal information

Please note <5 has been added where the number of individuals is 5 or less, this information has been redacted to protect the confidentiality of individuals and to ensure they cannot be identified.

4. How many patients were treated by the Ophthalmology Department (for any disease) in the past 3 months with Tocilizumab?

Nil

5. How many patients were treated in A&E in the past 3 months for giant cell arteritis (GCA) with Tocilizumab?

Nil