

Ref. No: 0548
Date: 29/12/23
Subject: Drug Overdoses

REQUEST

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to ask for the following information regarding drug overdoses and would like the information broken down by hospital site. If this is not possible, please state that the data at Trust level.

1. How many admissions related to drug overdose for year 2022?
2. How many admissions related to drug overdose from Jan – Nov 2023?
3. What are the most common drug overdose cases admitted in your hospital?
4. How many patients admitted for drug overdose received medical treatment at a ward level 2022?
5. How many patients admitted for drug overdose received medical treatment at a ward level Jan – Nov 2023?
6. How many patients admitted for drug overdose required admission to the intensive care unit for advanced medical intervention such as mechanical ventilation and continuous renal replacement therapy in 2022?
7. How many patients admitted for drug overdose required admission to the intensive care unit for advanced medical intervention such as mechanical ventilation and continuous renal replacement therapy in Jan – Nov 2023?
8. What is the average length of stay for those patients admitted for drug overdose in your intensive / critical care unit?
9. What is the total number of deaths related to drug overdose in your hospital in 2022?
10. What is the total number of deaths related to drug overdose in your hospital Jan – Nov 2023?

Clarification:

Please could you confirm if you are interested in looking at accidental overdoses, intentional overdoses or adverse effect in therapeutic use etc?

Any overdose, whether that be intentional or accidental rather than adverse effect in therapeutic use. It could be over the counter drugs, prescription drugs or illicit substances.

In addition, please could you clarify if there are any other procedures that you consider to be “advanced medical intervention” other than mechanical ventilation and continuous renal replacement therapy?

It would relate to any admission to Critical Care (ICU/HDU), no specifics on treatments received would be required, just the number admitted to ICU following a drug overdose as presumably the patient would receive advanced medical intervention in critical care that they couldn't receive on the ward.

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. How many admissions related to drug overdose for year 2022?

St Helens and Knowsley:

Year	No. Admissions
2022	1,024

Southport and Ormskirk:

Site	No. Admissions
Ormskirk Hospital	156
Southport and Formby Hospital	356
Total	512

2. How many admissions related to drug overdose from Jan – Nov 2023?

St Helens and Knowsley:

Year	No. Admissions
Jan – Nov (2023)	796

Southport and Ormskirk:

Site	No. Admissions
Ormskirk Hospital	123
Southport and Formby Hospital	293
Total	416

3. What are the most common drug overdose cases admitted in your hospital?

St Helens and Knowsley:

We are unable to provide this information.

Southport and Ormskirk:

Drug Taken	2022	2023
Paracetamol overdose	315	241
Overdose of antidepressant drug	38	70
Overdose of opiate	26	35
Sedative overdose	21	32
Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory overdose	19	23
Antidepressant overdose	38	0
Opiate overdose	24	0
NSAID overdose	14	0
Overdose of beta-adrenergic blocking drug	<5	8
Benzodiazepine overdose	10	0
Digoxin overdose	<5	<5
Iron product overdose	<5	<5
Overdose of calcium-channel blockers	0	<5

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.

4. How many patients admitted for drug overdose received medical treatment at a ward level 2022?

Please note that the information below is the number of patients admitted with a primary diagnosis of drug overdose, we are unable to confirm if a patient was treated on the ward for a drug overdose.

St Helens and Knowsley:

Year	Treated Ward Level
2022	1,004

Southport and Ormskirk:

Site	No. Admissions
Ormskirk Hospital	152
Southport and Formby Hospital	110
Total	262

5. How many patients admitted for drug overdose received medical treatment at a ward level Jan – Nov 2023?

Please note that the information below is the number of patients admitted with a primary diagnosis of drug overdose, we are unable to confirm if a patient was treated on the ward for a drug overdose.

St Helens and Knowsley:

Year	Treated Ward Level
Jan – Nov (2023)	785

Southport and Ormskirk:

Site	No. Admissions
Ormskirk Hospital	122
Southport and Formby Hospital	109
Total	231

6. How many patients admitted for drug overdose required admission to the intensive care unit for advanced medical intervention such as mechanical ventilation and continuous renal replacement therapy in 2022?

Please note that the information below is the number of patients admitted to ITU following a primary diagnosis of drug overdose, we cannot determine if the reason they were admitted to ITU was in relation to their drug overdose. We also cannot establish if they were admitted for advanced medical intervention as stipulated above.

St Helens and Knowsley:

Year	No. Admitted (ICU)
2022	18

Southport and Ormskirk:

Year	No. Admitted (ICU)
2022	6

7. How many patients admitted for drug overdose required admission to the intensive care unit for advanced medical intervention such as mechanical ventilation and continuous renal replacement therapy in Jan – Nov 2023?

Please note that the information below is the number of patients admitted to ITU following a primary diagnosis of drug overdose, we cannot determine if the reason they were admitted to ITU was in relation to their drug overdose. We also cannot establish if they were admitted for advanced medical intervention as stipulated above.

St Helens and Knowsley:

Year	No. Admitted (ICU)
Jan – Nov (2023)	10

Southport and Ormskirk:

Year	No. Admitted (ICU)
Jan – Nov (2023)	<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.

8. What is the average length of stay for those patients admitted for drug overdose in your intensive/critical care unit?

St Helens and Knowsley:

Year	Average Length of Stay (Days)
2022	5
2023	4

Southport and Ormskirk:

Year	Average Length of Stay (Days)
2022	6.5
2023	1.5

9. What is the total number of deaths related to drug overdose in your hospital in 2022?

Please note that the information below is the number of patients who died after being admitted with a primary diagnosis of drug overdose during their stay.

St Helens and Knowsley:

Nil

Southport and Ormskirk:

<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.

10. What is the total number of deaths related to drug overdose in your hospital Jan – Nov 2023?

Please note that the information below is the number of patients who died after being admitted with a primary diagnosis of drug overdose during their stay.

St Helens and Knowsley:

<5

Southport and Ormskirk:

<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.