

07 August 2020

**Our Ref:** RFI 34272

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Treatments for Patients with Atopic Dermatitis**

I am writing to confirm that the Trust has now completed its search for the information, which you requested on 6 April 2020. You will be aware from my previous email that due to the Covid- 19 Pandemic the Information Governance Service was suspended as staff were redeployed. Thank you for your patience and forbearance during the ensuing delay.

I wish to advise you that a response in respect of Question 2 and Question 3 cannot be released for the reason given below:

Outpatient Activity is not clinically coded, or held on a central information system, therefore numbers of any patients treated for Atopic Dermatitis within the Trust cannot be easily identified. To obtain this information would require a manual review of records. This would exceed the 'Appropriate Limit' as defined by the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust therefore exempts the release of this information under Section 12(1).

12.-(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

I enclose a copy of the information requested in respect of Question 1, provided by the Hospital Services Directorate, which can be released, at Appendix A

If you are unhappy as to how this request has been handled, you have the right to seek a review within the Trust in the first instance. You should write to the Information Governance Department, Lough House, Ards Community Hospital ([informationgovernance@setrust.hscni.net](mailto:informationgovernance@setrust.hscni.net)) within two months of the date of this response and your complaint will be considered and a response provided, within 20 working days of receipt.

If, after receiving a response, you remain unhappy, you can refer your complaint to the Information Commissioner at The Information Commissioner's Office –Northern Ireland, 3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place, Belfast, BT7 2JB. It is important to note that if you refer any matter to the Information Commissioner, you will need to show evidence

of having gone through the Trust's internal review procedure to try to resolve the matter with the Trust in the first instance.

If you have any queries about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours Sincerely

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**Joyce Batch**  
**Information Governance Assistant**

**Q1. In the last 4 months, how many patients with atopic dermatitis have you treated with the following treatments? If you are unable to breakdown or report by condition then please provide numbers of patients treated with the listed drug regardless of indication or condition.**

**I am happy to take overall usage of drugs regardless of condition if unable to link condition to drug use. Similarly, if the trusts reporting method is by volume, stock etc then I am happy to take that information as well if unable to give patient numbers. Just please indicate in the response (which trusts do anyway as standard) what the data being returned is in relation to if deviating from the original request in any way.**

A1. The Trust does not operate an electronic prescribing system therefore the drugs specified cannot be linked to conditions. Please refer to Table1 which details the volumes of the specified drugs used in the last 4 months.

Table1

<b>Drug/Treatment</b>	<b>Volume used</b>
Dupixent (aka Dupilumab)	265
Rinvoq (aka upadacitinib)	0
Methotrexate	1
Ciclosporin	0
Azathioprine	1
Mycophenate mefetil	0
Tacrolimus	1
Pimecrolimus	0
Acitretin	308
Alitretinoin	27
Ultraviolet light therapy	0