Information Governance

04 September 2020 **Our Ref:** RFI 35165

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000**
**Information in Relation to Apremalist Medication**

I am writing to confirm that the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (the Trust) has now completed its search for information relating to above which you requested on 22 July 2020.

A response to each of the questions raised has been provided by the Hospital Services Directorate and is attached in 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) 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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**Rebecca Manning**
**Information Governance Assistant**

***Q1. Please detail the number of patients currently prescribed apremilast with a current primary diagnosis of: a) Psoriasis b) Psoriatic Arthritis?***

***Q2. Of the patients prescribed apremilast in the last 12 months for Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis, what number of patients received treatment with targeted small molecules or biologic therapies* prior to beginning treatment with apremilast? (*See annex 1 for a list of small molecule/biologic therapies)***

***Q3. How many small molecule- and/or biologic-naive patients in the Trust are currently receiving a conventional non-biologic systemic therapy for Psoriasis or a conventional non-biologic disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drug (DMARD) for Psoriatic Arthritis? (e.g. methotrexate)***

A. In relation to Q1-Q3, this information is not held by the Trust as it is prescribed in primary care (patient's own GP's).

***Q4. Is CCG prior-approval required for the prescribing of apremilast? Y/N. If Yes, please tick the system you use: Blueteq □/Other □.***

A4. No, CCG prior-approval is not required for the prescribing of apremilast. Other system is used.

***Q5. If other, what system do you use?***

A5. Apremilast is approved for use in Northern Ireland in line with criteria specified on Health and Social Care Northern Ireland (HSCNI) Managed Entry website. It is an amber drug so is prescribed in primary care on the recommendation of a secondary care specialist. No funding approval is required as long as used within specified criteria.

***Q6. Is apremilast listed individually or grouped with biologic therapies on the prior-approval form for Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis?***

A6. No form is in use for Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis.

***Q7. Please provide the wording used on the CCG's prior-approval form for the prescribing of apremilast.***

A7. N/A – No form is in use.