

Trust Headquarters  
Russell's Hall Hospital  
Dudley  
West Midlands  
DY1 2HQ

**Ref:** FOI-052024-000848

**Date:** 07/08/2024

**Address / Email:**

Dear

**Request Under Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Thank you for requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

**Request**

Q1. 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.

Q2. 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

Q3. 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

Q4. How many patients were treated by the ophthalmology department (for any disease) in the past 3 months with Tocilizumab?

Q5. How many patients were treated in A&E in the past 3 months for giant cell arteritis (GCA) with Tocilizumab?

**Response**

Q1. 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.

**The Trust does treat GCA patients.**

Q2. 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 - **< 5**
- Treated in A&E – **5**

**The Trust does not publish numbers lower than 5 as this could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved and cause distress to families and friends. The number of patients with a**

**primary diagnosis of GCA within the last 3 months is less than 5, therefore, Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act has been applied.**

Q3. 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 - **68**
- Tocilizumab for giant cell arteritis (GCA) only - **< 5**

**The Trust does not publish numbers lower than 5 as this could lead to the identification of the person(s) involved and cause distress to families and friends. The number of patients treated by the Rheumatology Department within the last 3 months is less than 5, therefore, Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act has been applied.**

Q4. How many patients were treated by the ophthalmology department (for any disease) in the past 3 months with Tocilizumab? –

**Tocilizumab was not prescribed by Ophthalmology consultants for any patients during the 3-month period 01/02/2024 - 30/04/2024.**

Q5. How many patients were treated in A&E in the past 3 months for giant cell arteritis (GCA) with Tocilizumab? –

**Zero patients have been prescribed Tocilizumab; this drug requires permission from specialist centres.**

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have the right to appeal in line with guidance from the Information Commissioner. In the first instance you may contact the Information Governance Manager of the Trust.

Information Governance Manager  
Trust Headquarters  
Russell's Hall Hospital  
Dudley  
West Midlands  
DY1 2HQ  
Email: [dgft.dpo@nhs.net](mailto:dgft.dpo@nhs.net)

Should you disagree with the contents of our response to your appeal, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioners Office at.

Information Commissioners Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF  
Tel: 0303 123 1113  
[www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

If you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

**Freedom of Information Team  
The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust**