

Date 06/03/2025  
Your Ref  
Our Ref 9767

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Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – PRESCRIBING

I write in response to your request for information in relation to dermatology prescribing.

### Question:

1. For patients treated by the dermatology department with Dupilumab in the latest four months (September to December 2024), could you please tell us:
  - a. how many patients were treated in the previous 4-month period (May to August 2024) with Dupilumab?
  - b. how many patients were treated in the previous 4-month period (May to August 2024) with any of the following advanced therapies: abrocitinib, baricitinib, tralokinumab, upadacitinib and lebrikizumab?
  - c. how many patients were treated in the previous 4-month period (May to August 2024) with any of the following immunosuppressants: Methotrexate, Ciclosporin, Mycophenolate or Azathioprine?
  - d. how many patients were treated in the previous 4-month period (May to August 2024) with any other treatment? (e.g. Acitretin, Alitretin, Pimecrolimus, Tacrolimus, oral corticosteroids, topical steroids)

### Answer:

For NHS Lothian Adult Services, patients who received treatment within Dermatology only – please note that treatment in previous 4 months/subsequent 4 months is only indicative of patients who received this treatment via Dermatology only. It is not possible to identify if patients had treatments with these medications outwith dermatology due to incomplete datasets.

We are also unable to answer part d of both Q1 and Q2 due to insufficient patient identifiable information for these medicines. As cited previously:

This information is not currently definitively available on our systems. Under the Freedom of Information Act NHS Lothian is not required to create new records to enable it to respond to your enquiry. This information is not collated or held in aggregate form and it would be

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Chair Professor John Connaghan CBE  
Chief Executive Professor Caroline Hiscox  
*Lothian NHS Board is the common  
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necessary to review all case files **relating to patients** over the period you have requested to assemble the information you seek. Even if NHS Lothian did this – and there would be significant cost implications in doing so – it would be unable to respond in full to your request. The information requested is therefore exempt under section 12.1 – Cost

<b>For patients treated with dupilumab within NHS Lothian adult services from September 2024 - December 2024, below patient counts for those treated in the previous four month period (May 2024 - August 2024) with specified medications.</b>		
<b>Question</b>	<b>Medication</b>	<b>Patient Count</b>
Q1a	Dupilumab	171
Q1b	Advanced Therapies: Abrocitinib, Baricitinib, Tralokinumab, Lebrikizumab	5<
Q1c	Immunosuppresants: Methotrexate, Ciclosporin, Mycophenolate, Azathioprine	21
Q1d	Other Treatment: Acitretin, Alitretin, Pimecrolimus, Tacrolimus, Oral Corticosteroids, Topical Steroids	Information Unavailable

Question:

2. For patients treated by the dermatology department with Dupilumab in the four months from May to August 2024, could you please let us:
  - a. how many patients were treated in the subsequent 4-month period (September to December 2024) with Dupilumab?
  - b. how many patients were treated in the subsequent 4-month period (September to December 2024) with any of the following advanced therapies: abrocitinib, baricitinib, tralokinumab, upadacitinib and lebrikizumab?
  - c. how many patients were treated in the subsequent 4-month period (September to December 2024) with any of the following immunosuppressants: Methotrexate, Ciclosporin, Mycophenolate or Azathioprine?
  - d. how many patients were treated in the subsequent 4-month period (September to December 2024) with any other treatment? (e.g. Acitretin, Alitretin, Pimecrolimus, Tacrolimus, oral corticosteroids , topical steroids)

Answer:

<b>For patients treated with dupilumab within NHS Lothian adult services from May 2024 - August 2024, below patient counts for those treated in the subsequent four month period (September 2024 - December 2024) with specified medications.</b>		
<b>Question</b>	<b>Medication</b>	<b>Patient Count</b>
Q2a	Dupilumab	171
Q2b	Advanced Therapies: Abrocitinib, Baricitinib, Tralokinumab, Lebrikizumab	7
Q2c	Immunosuppresants: Methotrexate, Ciclosporin, Mycophenolate, Azathioprine	5<

Q2d	Other Treatment: Acitretin, Alitretin, Pimecrolimus, Tacrolimus, Oral Corticosteroids, Topical Steroids	Information Unavailable
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To protect the identity of the individuals involved any figure of 5 or less has not been shown in the tables above. Since we do not have their consent to release this data from their records, the information is exempt under section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act i.e. to provide it would breach the Data Protection Act (2018).

I hope the information provided helps with your request.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request, you do have the right to request us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner within 6 months of receipt of our review response. You can do this by using the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office online appeals service at [www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal). If you remain dissatisfied with the Commissioner's response you then have the option to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law.

If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to the FOI Reviewer at the email address at the head of this letter. The review will be undertaken by a Reviewer who was not involved in the original decision-making process.

FOI responses (subject to redaction of personal information) may appear on NHS Lothian's Freedom of Information website at: <https://org.nhsllothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

**ALISON MACDONALD**  
**Executive Director, Nursing**  
Cc: Chief Executive