

Date: 23/05/2025
Our Ref: 9925
Enquiries to loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – MEDICATION ERRORS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to incorrect medication doses given to children in NHS Lothian.

Question:

Please provide the recorded number of incorrect medication doses given to anyone admitted to Royal Hospital for Children with a breakdown along with the medication and incorrect dose given, as well as the correct dose that should have been given. I would like this information to include ages of the patient involved in each reported case.

Answer:

The below table details the number of adverse events recorded of incorrect medication doses given to anyone admitted to the Royal Hospital for Children and Young People each year between 2020 to 2024 (01/01/2020 to 31/12/2024). The data is broken into three different searches.

- Medication Form – Medication Error: **Wrong quantity**
- Medication Form – Medication Error: **Wrong/unclear dose or strength**
- Category Medication and Sub Category ADMIN: **dose, strength wrong**

Please note that we have an open adverse event reporting system, and therefore categories selected may be down to individual interpretation.

We cannot provide the medication data, or child age, as we do not routinely record this on our adverse event reporting system. Information may be held in individual patient records, but in order to provide the information you request it would be necessary to review each patient record over the period you have specified, requiring significant resources. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, NHS Lothian is not required to respond to your request if the resources required to do so equate to more than £600 in cost.

Incidents recorded of incorrect medication dose, Royal Hospital for Children and Young People, NHS Lothian					
Incident category	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Medication Form - Medication Error: Wrong quantity	15	16	17	19	19
Medication Form - Medication Error: Wrong/unclear dose or strength	15	31	23	34	33
Category: Medication; Sub Category: ADMIN: dose, strength wrong	7	10	6	12	13

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 <https://www.foi.scot/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 reviewer at the address at the top 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>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director of Nursing Midwifery and AHPs
 Cc: Chief Executive