

Dear

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – OPHTHALMOLOGY PRESCRIBING

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

Question:

1. The number of Kenalog administrations carried out in Ophthalmology for each of the last three financial years.

Answer:

Ophthalmology does not keep a record of this information.

Question:

2. A breakdown of the clinical indications recorded for Kenalog use in Ophthalmology (e.g., uveitis, macular oedema, post-operative inflammation), if available.

Answer:

Used in ophthalmology for visualisation during vitrectomy, treatment of the following ophthalmic diseases: sympathetic ophthalmia, temporal arteritis, uveitis and ocular inflammatory conditions unresponsive to topical corticosteroids.

Question:

3. Any local guidelines, protocols, or clinical policies governing the use of Kenalog in Ophthalmology.

Answer:

The use of Kenalog in Ophthalmology in NHS Lothian would be subject the Safe Use of Medicines Policy and the Procedure for the Use of Unlicensed Medicines.

<https://policyonline.nhsllothian.scot/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Safe%20Use%20of%20Medicines%20Policy.pdf>

[https://policyonline.nhsllothian.scot/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Use\\_of\\_Unlicensed\\_Medicines\\_Procedure.pdf](https://policyonline.nhsllothian.scot/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Use_of_Unlicensed_Medicines_Procedure.pdf)

Nil local guidelines currently in place.

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Mainpoint  
102 West Port  
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Chair Professor John Connaghan CBE  
Chief Executive Professor Caroline Hiscox  
*Lothian NHS Board is the common name of Lothian Health Board*

Question:

4. Any recorded adverse events, Datix reports, or safety concerns relating to Kenalog use in Ophthalmology during the same period.

Answer:

No information available.

Question:

5. The number of vials issued by pharmacy to Ophthalmology for Kenalog in each of the last three financial years, if held.

Answer:

Medication	April 2023 - January 2026		
	Number of Vials Issued		
	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026 to January 2026
Triamcinolone Acetonide (Generic – Brand not specified)	115	60	30

Question:

6. Whether Kenalog (triamcinolone) is listed on the Trust’s formulary for Ophthalmology, and if so, any restrictions or criteria for its use.

Answer:

NHS Lothian use the East Region Formulary. There is a condition pathway for the management of inflammatory eye conditions. Triamcinolone does not feature on the treatment pathway however it is mentioned in the prescribing notes with reference to it potentially having been used peri-ocularly for noninfectious uveitis where the effect was short-acting but not lasting. <https://www.formulary.nhs.scot/east/eye/eye-conditions/inflammatory-eye-conditions/?m=treatment-with-corticosteroids>

The East Region Formulary does not include medicines that are used as an adjunct to a surgical procedure.

Question:

7. As Kenalog has been withdrawn from the UK market, please provide any recorded information, internal communications, policies, or decisions relating to:
- whether the Ophthalmology department is continuing to use existing stock,
  - any plans or decisions to discontinue its use, and
  - any identified or recommended alternative treatments.



Answer:

a.	Nil Kenalog in stock as per pharmacy stock control system.
b.	Kenalog no longer used - alternative product sourced.
c.	Alternative triamcinolone product being used - unlicensed in UK as it is an import however licensed in Canada/US as a medicine (Triesence). Intracinol was considered but it is not licensed as a medicine (is considered a medical device) and so deemed unsuitable for use - unable to confirm if tested to required standards if to be used as a medicinal product. Triesence is also a cheaper product compared to Intracinol.

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.nhslothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

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