



FOI REF: 21/332

12th July 2021

Tel: 0300 131 4500

Website: www.esht.nhs.uk

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

I am responding to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The answers to your specific questions are as follows:

1. How many patients at your hospital have been treated for illness related to pregabalin or gabapentin each year?

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not code patients based on the drugs prescribed. To enable the Trust to provide the information requested would require a manual review and cross checking of patients' notes. We are therefore applying Section 12(1)

Section 12(1) of the Act allows a public authority to refuse to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of compliance would exceed the 'appropriate limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 (the Regulations). These state that this cost limit is £450 for public authorities which are not part of central government or the armed forces. The costs are calculated at £25 per hour per person regardless of the rate of pay, which means that the limit will be exceeded if the work involved would exceed 18 hours. The Trust estimates that the cost of complying with this request would significantly exceed the above limit.

2. How many patients at your hospital have died after taking pregabalin or gabapentin each year?

Section 12(1) applied, please see above.

Could you please provide data for as many years as possible? At least the past 20 years.

Section 12(1) applied, please see above.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Should you be dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, please write to the Freedom of Information Department (esh-tr.foi@nhs.net), quoting the above reference.

Yours sincerely

Linda Thornhill (Mrs)
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