

15 August 2022

## **Non-Tuberculosis Mycobacterium**

- Q1 How many patients were treated in the last 12 months (for any disease) with:**
- a) Ethambutol + rifampicin + Clarithromycin/azithromycin**
  - b) Ethambutol + rifampicin + Clarithromycin/azithromycin with the addition of injectable (IV) or nebulised Amikacin**

- Q2 How many patients have been diagnosed in the last 12 months for the following diseases?**
- a) Non-tuberculosis mycobacterium (NTM) (ICD10 codes: A31.0/A31.9)**
  - b) Bronchiectasis (ICD10 codes J47/Q33.4)**

For Questions 1 and 2, unfortunately we do not have a database that holds this information centrally. We believe it would take more than 18 hours to locate, retrieve and extract the information.

The Trust's Pharmacy system is a stock control system rather than an electronic prescribing system and, unfortunately, it does not contain this level of detail.

Belfast Trust considers that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the 'Appropriate Limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information Act under Section 12. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified as £450 for public authorities such as Belfast Trust. This represents the cost of one or more persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information.

- Q3 Which other hospital trust or health care professional would you contact if you require advice on non-tuberculosis mycobacterium (NTM) infections?**

- Q4 Do you discuss difficult to manage non-tuberculosis mycobacterium (NTM) patients as a Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)?**

With regard to Question 3 and 4, all patients would be discussed and managed with the appropriate specialty, Respiratory and Microbiology.