

16 December 2022

Hospital Medicine Data

Request

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I would like to request an extract of the hospital medicines usage data held by Belfast HSC Trust, detailing the volume of drugs dispensed by hospital pharmacies and homecare, at an individual product level. Please note that this request is for aggregated medicines usage data, and explicitly does not require any patient-level or patient-identifiable data.

Please could you provide a report containing data against the following fields, in .csv format, for each month, covering the most recent available data month and all previous months if possible back to January 2019 (in line with the data published by NHS BSA on behalf of NHS England). Please include records for all dispensed products. England reports products at SNOMED VPID level, however a lower level of drug code is preferred if available in the following order of preference: APPID, APID, VPPID, VPID.

Fields requested:

Dispensing Date (YearMonth)
HSC Trust identifier
Hospital site identifier (if available)
Drug code
Drug name
Volume dispensed
Volume Unit of measurement
Indicative cost (if available)

Response

This information was not possible to attain within the timeframe. The hospital medicines usage data held by BHSCT does not hold this level of detail in the above reporting format for hospital pharmacies and homecare. To undertake this exercise would necessitate interrogation of data from different sources and systems which would involve a significant number of hours. This would exceed the costs limit specified in the FOI act.

We estimate that compliance with this (element of the) request for information would exceed the appropriate costs limit. Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information 2000, the limit has been specified as £450 and represents the estimated cost of one or more persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information.