

17 February 2023

NHS Drug Expiry Costs

This is an information request relating to the cost of drugs going out of date.

What is the total value of drugs that have been disposed of due to going past their expiry date, for each of the following years: 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22.

1. Belfast Health and Social Care Trust is a tertiary referral Health and Social Care Trust, treating patients from the local catchment area and from across all of Northern Ireland, through the provision of regional specialties.
2. The annual medicines expenditure is over £140 Million.
3. We hold a number of specialist / rarely used medicines / antidotes / emergency medicines for health and social care across Northern Ireland. Some of these medicines are used infrequently and may expire and require replacement due to urgent access requirements. We need to hold sufficient stock to meet potential urgent needs.
4. Pharmacy ICT – Report by All Stock Adjustments for Expired/Damaged Stock has provided the information below, aggregated for pharmacy and non-pharmacy cost centres. The search engine also interrogated the use of “expired” in the comments section of the stock adjustment field. The total value of drugs that have been disposed of due to going past their expiry date is:

2021/2022:	£201,936.05
2020/2021:	£376,104.68
2019/2020:	£339,694.86