

21 August 2023

NUT ALLERGIES IN CHILDREN

I refer to the above and am requesting the following information under the Freedom of Information Act to help with a story on children with nut allergies in Northern Ireland and possible treatments offered, including exposure therapy.

1) How many children (under 18) in your Trust area have been diagnosed with a nut allergy each year over the last five years (Jan 2018-Dec 2018 and each year up to Jan 2022-Dec 2022 and 2023 to date)?

- There is no central coding to enable us to determine this information accurately.

2) a) How many children in your Trust area are currently living with a nut allergy?

- There is no central coding to enable us to determine this information accurately.

b) What percentage of the under 18 population does this represent in your Trust area?

- There is no central coding to enable us to determine this information accurately.

3) a) Are treatments offered in your Trust area to children with a nut allergy?

- Palforzia is the only licenced product that is used to treat peanut allergy. It does not treat other nut allergies. It is not currently being offered in Belfast Trust. The Trust is working with commissioners to address this. There may be other desensitisation therapies available but to our knowledge they are only available privately or as part of research projects.

b) If so, what are the treatments, where are these treatments offered and how many children are currently receiving treatment?

- See responses above.

c) How many children, if any, have successfully been treated in your Trust area over the last five years (Jan 2018-Dec 2018 and each year

21 August 2023

**up to Jan 2022-Dec 2022 and 2023 to date) and are no longer
considered to have a nut allergy?**

- There is no central coding to enable us to determine this information accurately.

4) a) Are children in your area being treated for nut allergies in another NI health Trust or outside of NI?

- There is no central coding to enable us to determine this information accurately. However we are aware of a number of children who are getting treatment for nut allergies in the private sector in England.

b) If so, what are the treatments, where are these treatments offered and how many children are currently receiving treatment?

- As before

5) How many children within in your Trust area have died because of a nut allergy over the last five years (Jan 2018-Dec 2018 and each year up to Jan 2022-Dec 2022 and 2023 to date)?

- We are unaware of any child in recent years who has died of a nut allergy however the registry office for deaths may be able to help with this.