

**30 September 2025**

## **Giant Cell Arteritis**

### **Q1. How many patients have a current diagnosis of Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA) (ICD10 codes M31.5 or M31.6) at your Trust?**

Yes we run a Giant Cell Arteritis rapid access service. Patients are referred from Ophthalmology, General Practitioners (GP) and Emergency Departments to Rheumatology via the Medical Officer on call. They are seen in the rapid access clinic and then the Giant Cell Arteritis scanning clinics run each Friday.

No data available as this would require a manual trawl and would exceed 18 hours.

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.

### **Q2. How many patients have been newly diagnosed with Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA) (ICD10 codes M31.5 or M31.6) in the past 3 months?**

From 22/6/25 – 22/9/25 197 patients had a primary diagnosis of Giant Cell Arteritis (M31.5 & M31.6)

### **Q3. How many patients were treated by the Rheumatology department for Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA) (ICD10 codes M31.5 or M31.6)?**

No data available as this would require a manual trawl and would exceed 18 hours.

Please see above

### **Q4. How many patients were treated by the rheumatology department in the past 3 months with the following:**

- Tocilizumab – for any disease - 172
- Tocilizumab for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) only - 22
- Tocilizumab for giant cell arteritis (GCA) only - <5

Where numbers are low we have indicated <5 (less than five) rather than give the exact figure. We feel that providing the exact figure has the potential to make people

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Identifiable and so that information is exempt from release under Section 40(2) Personal Information relating to a third party, of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

**Q5. In the past 3 months, how many patients with a primary diagnosis of GCA (ICD10 codes M31.5 or M31.6) were:**

- **Admitted as an inpatient**
- 0 - hospital admissions for Giant cell arteritis. Patients are reviewed as outpatients.
- **Treated in A&E**
- From 22/6/25 – 22/9/25 a total of 21 patients were diagnosed and treated in emergency department for Giant Cell Arteritis (M31.5 & M31.6)