

27 November 2025

Treatment of Inflammatory Diseases

How many patients were treated with the following drugs for the following diseases from the start of July 2025 to the end of September 2025?

Drug Name	Plaque psoriasis	Psoriatic arthritis
Adalimumab	260	
Apremilast	13	
Bimekizumab	15	
Brodalumab	<5	
Certolizumab Pegol	8	
Deucravacitinib	<5	
Etanercept	<5	
Etrasimod		
Filgotinib		
Golimumab		
Guselkumab	94	
Infliximab (Biosimilars)	<5	
Infliximab (Remicade)	<5	
Ixekizumab	62	
Mirikizumab		
Ozanimod		
Risankizumab	112	
Secukinumab	46	
Tildrakizumab	<5	
Tofacitinib		
Upadacitinib		
Ustekinumab	84	
Vedolizumab		

Use of <5 (less than five): We are unable to provide an exact figure - exempt from release under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act, as the small numbers involved could make patients personally identifiable. Disclosure would constitute a breach of the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation 2018.

In relation to Psoriatic arthritis:

We could only provide total number of patients prescribed the drug - we would not have information to hand on diagnosis or if patients' medication was on hold during July to September timeframe indicated.

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Note: To pull information relating to patients' diagnosis from epic may not be 100% accurate, as often diagnosis for homecare rx is handwritten onto prescription. To manually check this information would require more than 18 hours work, given the volume of patients.

We would have to go through all infusion clinics for that time period and check each patient, as some patients may have been scheduled for treatment but could have ended up having their treatment deferred

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.

Some of the medications listed are prescribed under shared care - apremilast can be first dispensed by GP under instruction of hospital specialist. They may not be dispensed by hospital pharmacy.