

9 August 2021

BY EMAIL

████████████████████
Our Ref: FOI 1521

Dear ██████████,

Your request for information was received on 13th July 2021 and was dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please be advised that the Business Services Organisation (BSO) has now completed its search for the information you requested with regards to Midazolam prescriptions.

Please find a response as follows:

The number of prescriptions for Midazolam issued between 1st March 2020 and 31st March 2021 and subsequently dispensed was 14,181. The number of items dispensed from these prescriptions was 14,423.

For the financial year 2020/21 (1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021), the number of prescriptions for Midazolam issued and subsequently dispensed was 13,021. The number of items dispensed from these prescriptions was 13,241.

Please also refer to the background notes in Appendix 1.

I hope that the information provided assists you. If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter.

In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to

Information Governance Manager,
2 Franklin Street,
Belfast,
BT2 8DQ



If, following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision making panel, you remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request, you may make a complaint under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the BSO has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act.

You can contact Information Commissioner at:

Website: www.ico.org.uk
Phone: 0303 123 1113
Email: casework@ico.org.uk
Post: Information Commissioner's Office
3rd Floor, 14 Cromac Place
Belfast
BT7 2JB

In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out. However the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Bailey".

Karen Bailey
Acting Chief Executive

Appendix 1 - Background Notes

1. This information has been sourced from the Family Practitioner Services within the HSC Business Services Organisation. The information comes from the Family Practitioner Services Pharmacy Payment System. All information is for prescriptions prescribed in Primary care and dispensed by a community pharmacist or dispensing doctor. Data on secondary care prescribing and private prescriptions are not held by the Business Services Organisation. If a patient does not take a prescription to a dispenser and get it provided to them, then the information will not be included in the dataset. Private prescriptions are not included in the data.
2. A prescription item is a single supply of a medicine, dressing or appliance written on a prescription form. If a prescription form includes three medicines it is counted as three prescription items. Item figures do not provide any indication of the length of treatment or quantity of medicine prescribed.
3. This analysis is based on any drug with the chemical name Midazolam.
4. BSO dispensing data does not capture the indication for which the drug has been prescribed / dispensed.
5. If statistics are to be used for comparative purposes to other parts of the UK, differences in prescription dispensing and processing in Northern Ireland compared to other UK regions should be noted. For example, in Northern Ireland there is no outpatient dispensing.

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