

Title Intra-Vitreous Eye treatments

Reference Number: RDF2299-24

Date of Response: 21/02/24

Further to your Freedom of Information Act request, please find the Trust's response(s) below:

Please be aware that the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (Royal Devon) has existed since 1st April 2022 following the integration of the Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust (known as Northern Services) and the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust (known as Eastern Services).

I am researching the usage of high-cost drugs in ophthalmology. Your answers to the following questions will be highly appreciated.

- For the 4 months from September to December 2023, how many patients received the following intra-vitreous treatments for any eye condition:*

Treatment	Total patients
<i>Aflibercept</i>	2397
<i>Bevacizumab</i>	21
<i>Brolucizumab</i>	0
<i>Dexamethasone</i>	* <5
<i>Faricimab</i>	377
<i>Ranibizumab - Lucentis</i>	27
<i>Ranibizumab - Ongavia</i>	82

- For the patients above, how many were new to intra-vitreous treatment? Please provide the patient numbers by the treatments listed below, excluding patients who previously had received any of these treatments.*

Treatment	Total patients
<i>Aflibercept</i>	364
<i>Bevacizumab</i>	10
<i>Brolucizumab</i>	0
<i>Dexamethasone</i>	* <5
<i>Faricimab</i>	16
<i>Ranibizumab - Lucentis</i>	* <5

<i>Ranibizumab - Ongavia</i>	10
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*<5 Section 40(2) exemption

Please note: Where the figures are less than or equal to 5 this has been denoted by *. Due to the low numbers, we have considered that there is the potential for individuals to be identified from the information provided, when considered with other information that may also be in the public domain. In our view disclosure of these low figures would breach one of the Data Protection Principles set out in Schedule 1 of the GDPR, namely Principle 1.

The Trust therefore finds that the Section 40(2) exemption contained within the Freedom of information Act 2000 is engaged. This follows NHS Digital (formerly HSCIC) analysis guidance (2014) which states that small numbers within local authorities, wards, postcode districts, providers and Trusts may allow identification of patients and should not be published.