

November 2011

ARMD and Lucentis

- 1. Does your Trust perform procedures for the treatment of ARMD using Lucentis?*
- 2. If yes, please provide the number of procedures carried out for financial years 2010/11 and to date in 2011/12*
- 3. For the activity provided at question 2 how many different patients did this relate to?*
- 4. What is the maximum number of procedures the Trust has performed on one individual patient irrespective of financial years?*

For questions 1 to 4 above, I can confirm that the Trust holds some of the information you have requested, but this is not readily retrievable in terms of being held in one file. For example, the Trust has an electronic Pharmacy prescribing system, from which we are able to obtain figures concerning the usage of Lucentis by our Ophthalmologists but our systems do not allow us to link this usage to particular conditions or patients.

In order to extract the information you have requested, we would have to retrieve the medical records for every patient with a diagnosis of Age Related Macular Degeneration (ARMD) and manually search through them to find any details of the use of Lucentis.

We have estimated that it would take more than 18 hours to locate all the information you have requested and that the associated cost would therefore exceed the appropriate fee limit of £450 set out under Freedom of Information & Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2007.

The fee limit specified in regulations for NHS trusts represents the cost of one person spending 2½ working days at a rate of £25 per hour determining whether the Trust holds the information sought and then locating, retrieving and extracting that information.

Having regard to section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act in circumstances where the fee limit is likely to be exceeded the Trust is not obliged to respond to the request. Accordingly, we are sorry but on this occasion we will not be processing this part of your request further.

- 5. Does the Trust obtain a refund from the drug company Novartis for patients receiving more than 14 procedures?*

Yes

6. *If yes is this refund passed on to the Commissioner?*

Yes

7. *Is this procedure performed as a daycase or outpatient procedure?*

The procedure is mainly performed in outpatients, but sometimes as a day case.

8. *Does the Trust obtain payment for performing this procedure through Payment By Results or a locally agreed tariff with the Commissioner?*

The Trust obtains payments for performing the “wet” ARMD procedure through local arrangements with our Primary Care Trust, but not through Payment by Results.

9. *If Payment by Results what HRG is this coded to?*

Not applicable – please see answer to Q8.

CATARACTS

1. *Does the Trust perform cataract procedures?*

Yes

2. *If yes, please provide the number of procedures carried out for financial years 2010/11 and to date in 2011/12 split by HRG BZ02Z and BZ03Z*

	BZ02Z	BZ03Z
2010/2011	3,350	44
2011/2012 first eight months	1,824	24

3. *Does the Trust follow a Best Practice pathway and obtain payment through Best Practice Tariffs for cataracts?*

Yes