

Freedom of Information Request	FOI 21-347	8 th September 2021
--------------------------------	------------	--------------------------------

**1 – Are your patients coded for the different sub types of MS (multiple sclerosis), Relapse remitting, primary progressive and secondary?
Please answer Yes, No, coding planned, partial coding, all patients coded**

Multiple sclerosis is coded on inpatient and day case hospital stays. It is coded using the ICD-10 code G35.X (multiple sclerosis), but it is not possible to code the specific type of multiple sclerosis using ICD-10. All patients admitted as an inpatient or day case will be coded but using the code G35.X only.

**2 – For secondary progressive MS are your patients coded?
Please answer No coding, coding planned, partial coding, all patients coded**

Please refer to Q1.

3 – What proportion of your MS patients have a diagnosis of secondary progressive MS (within all MS diagnosed patients)?

Please answer Unknown, <10%, 10-20%, 21-30%, 31-40%, >50%
31-40% (estimate based on international epidemiological studies)

4 – For MS patients requiring an MRI, what is the average waiting time?

Please answer <1 month, 2 – 3 months, 4 – 6 months, >6 months
2-3 months

5 – For MS patients requiring an OCT, what is the average waiting time?

Please answer <1 month, 2 – 3 months, 4 – 6 months, >6 months
This is not an investigation that the Health Board would routinely request.

6 – For MS patients what is the average waiting time for IV MS treatment?

Please answer <1 month, 2 – 3 months, 4 – 6 months, >6 months
2 – 3 months.

7 – When a patient has been diagnosed with MS, what is the average time from diagnosis of MS to initiate treatment?

More than 6 months.

8 – How many unscheduled admissions have there been for patients with a diagnosis of MS in any position between April – June 2021?

Please answer with the number of admissions

Please note the following figures will not include patients still in hospital as coding is completed after discharge or those hospital stays that have not yet been coded.

Unscheduled admissions = 34

'Assessed Outs' i.e. patients who present at an (emergency) assessment unit, but do not go on to be admitted = 15

9 – How many MS patients are being treated in neurology rehab?

Please answer the number of patients

None.

10 – Of the patients in Question 8, how many are being treated with an MS disease modifying drug?

Please answer with the number of patients

Of the unscheduled admissions, less than 5 were on Disease Modifying Therapies (DMTs)

Of the assessed outpatient less than 5 were on DMTs

Please note that Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 has been applied. The Health Board will not provide the exact numbers due to the low numbers of individuals involved (5 or less). The Health Board believes there is a potential risk of individuals being able to be identified, when considered with other information already available within the public domain, if this was disclosed. Therefore, the data is classed as personal data as defined under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 and its disclosure would be contrary to the data protection principles and constitute unfair and unlawful processing in regard to Articles 5, 6, and 9 of GDPR. We are therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

11 – How many MS patients are in the following EDSS (Expanded Disability Status Scale) groups?

1 – 3.5, 3.5 – 6.5, >7

1-3.5: 12%

3.5-6.5: 63%

≥7: 25%

12 – How many of your physicians can initiate MS disease modifying drug treatment? If possible please supply the physicians name

Two.