

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 24-920

9 December 2024

By Email

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Trust's response is as follows:

- We can confirm that we do hold the information you are requesting

1. How many doses of each of the following strengths of Meropenem do you administer annually?

- **500mg**
- **1 gram**
- **2 grams**

The figures in the table below represent the number of **vials** used, rather than the number of doses administered. The data is taken from Refine as electronic prescribing is not yet in use across the trust. Both 2023 and 2024 (to end of November 2024) are included, plus the mean of the (almost) 2 calendar years.

	2023	2024	Mean
Meropenem 500mg vials	6293	4382	5337
Meropenem 1g vials	12962	14276	13,619
Meropenem 2g vials	0	0	0

2. What are the main areas of your hospital where Meropenem is used?

- GICU/cardiac ICU
- Medicine
- Children's hospital (especially haematology/oncology, PICU)
- Adult haematology/oncology

3. What are the main conditions you use Meropenem to treat?

Meropenem is recommended for a very limited number of indications in our guidance, but is more commonly used for:

- On microbiology advice, sepsis etc. in GICU/CICU.
- 2nd or 3rd line for neutropenic sepsis
- PICU/paediatric haematology/oncology

- Cystic fibrosis patients

4. How do you currently administer Meropenem via bolus or infusion? If you infuse, do you use gravity or pump sets?

We use a bolus on most general wards but for new prescriptions in ICUs (general, cardiac and Weston General ICU), a 5 min bolus is administered stat, followed by a 3-hour extended infusion via pumps.

5. Where is your Meropenem currently reconstituted (e.g., wards or aseptic units)?

Currently reconstituted on wards

6. Do you face any challenges when administering Meropenem?

Not currently aware of any.

7. Do you frequently experience drug shortages of Meropenem?

No

8. How many medication errors do you experience per month when administering Meropenem?

In the past year, there have been seven incidents involving meropenem due to a variety of reasons (incorrect frequency, non-availability of drug, etc.)

This concludes our response. We trust that you find this helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact us directly if we can be of any further assistance.

If, after that, you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

Data Protection Officer
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust
Trust Headquarters
Marlborough Street
Bristol
BS1 3NU

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Publication

Please note that this letter and the information included/attached will be published on our website as part of the Trust's Freedom of Information Publication Log. This is because information disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act is disclosed to the public, not just to the individual making the request. We will remove any personal information (such as your name, email and so on) from any information we make public to protect your personal information.

To view the Freedom of Information Act in full please click [here](#).

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Team
University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust