

Freedom of Information Request

Ref: 25-150

27 February 2025

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

I want to make a Freedom of Information request for all information your trust holds regarding the medication Ciprofloxacin.

I would like all information regarding any and all warnings provided for Ciprofloxacin since 2003.

I would like a listing of all viable alternative medications used instead of Ciprofloxacin.

Ciprofloxacin is an antibiotic in the fluoroquinolone group and these drugs are routinely used both in hospital and primary care settings around the world for a broad range of infections.

University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust (UHBW) Guidelines
UHBW provides Antimicrobial guidance for prescribers, covering common infections routinely seen in patients presenting to the hospitals. These are based on national and international guidance, and as antimicrobial resistance patterns can be geographically localised, consideration is also given to these when formulating guidelines. Unfortunately we do not have records of guidelines as far back as 2003: any recommendations for use or alerts would have been those published in the following references, namely the BNF and the SPCs (see next paragraph).

British National Formulary & Summary of Product Characteristics

Any and all prescribers have access to the British national Formulary (BNF) and the Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC) of all drugs licensed in the UK. Both of these references provide comprehensive information on dosing, side-effects and warnings and are widely used by healthcare professionals. Any warnings regarding ciprofloxacin use would have been those available in the BNF and SPCs at the time.

SPCs are produced by drug manufacturers. A summary of product characteristics is a description of a medicinal product's properties and the conditions attached to its use. It explains how to use and prescribe a medicine. SPCs are used by healthcare professionals, such as doctors, nurses and pharmacists. Every medicine pack also includes a patient information leaflet (PIL), which provides patient-specific information on using the medicine safely. PILs are based on information in the SPC of the medicine. The following link is an example of a PIL for ciprofloxacin, but it should be noted that there are numerous manufacturers producing this drug but all will contain the same advice and warnings for use:

[PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET](#)

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) operate in a statutory framework set by HM Government and are the regulator of medicines in the UK. This includes producing updates and alerts on medicines to educate the public and healthcare professionals about the risks and benefits of medications. Drug Safety Updates and alerts are communicated to GP practices, hospital trusts and pharmacies and further disseminated to all prescribers and pharmacists.

The list below includes MHRA alerts on ciprofloxacin (or the group, fluoroquinolones) published since 2003. These are available to all healthcare professionals in the UK.

Alternative medications

As ciprofloxacin is used for so many different infections, it is not possible to provide a list of potential alternatives without knowing more detail. The choice would depend on a number of factors, including, any patient allergies recorded, site and severity of infection, causative organism, antibiotic-resistance and any prior antibiotic therapy taken.

MHRA alerts on fluoroquinolones:

January 2005: Fluoroquinolones for treating tuberculosis: [Fluoroquinolones for treating tuberculosis. - GOV.UK](#)

January 2005: Fluoroquinolones for treating typhoid and paratyphoid fever (enteric fever): [Fluoroquinolones for treating typhoid and paratyphoid fever \(enteric fever\). - GOV.UK](#)

Updated January 2013: Fluoroquinolones for treating tuberculosis (presumed drug-sensitive): [Fluoroquinolones for treating tuberculosis \(presumed drug-sensitive\) - GOV.UK](#)

November 2018: Systemic and inhaled fluoroquinolones: small increased risk of aortic aneurysm and dissection; advice for prescribing in high-risk patients: [Systemic and inhaled fluoroquinolones: small increased risk of aortic aneurysm and dissection; advice for prescribing in high-risk patients - GOV.UK](#)

March 2019: Fluoroquinolone antibiotics: new restrictions and precautions for use due to very rare reports of disabling and potentially long-lasting or irreversible side effects: [Fluoroquinolone antibiotics: new restrictions and precautions for use due to very rare reports of disabling and potentially long-lasting or irreversible side effects - GOV.UK](#)

December 2020: Systemic and inhaled fluoroquinolones: small risk of heart valve regurgitation; consider other therapeutic options first in patients at risk: [Systemic and inhaled](#)

[fluoroquinolones: small risk of heart valve regurgitation; consider other therapeutic options first in patients at risk - GOV.UK](#)

August 2023: Fluoroquinolone antibiotics: reminder of the risk of disabling and potentially long-lasting or irreversible side effects: [Fluoroquinolone antibiotics: reminder of the risk of disabling and potentially long-lasting or irreversible side effects - GOV.UK](#)

January 2024: Fluoroquinolone antibiotics: must now only be prescribed when other commonly recommended antibiotics are inappropriate: [Fluoroquinolone antibiotics: must now only be prescribed when other commonly recommended antibiotics are inappropriate - GOV.UK](#)

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