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Our Ref: FOI 2311

Thank you for your request concerning the supply and cost of analgesics.

Your request has been considered and processed in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000.

**PARACETAMOL, IBUPROFEN, ASPIRIN, CODEINE PHOSPHATE**

**1. Which suppliers did you buy the above from?**

We are supplied our medication according to the agreements arranged by the NHS Commercial Medicines Unit (CMU).

**2. How many packets for each of the above did you buy from each supplier? Please disclose how many tablets were in the packets.**

We are unable to provide this information broken down by individual supplier. Please refer to question 1.

**3. How many packets for each of the above did you buy in total? Please disclose how many tablets were in the packets.**

The below table represents the pack size and the number of tablets dispensed at our inpatient units, including TTAs (To Take Away).

DRUG	PACK SIZE	FINANCIAL YEAR					
		13/14		14/15		15/16	
		Number of individual tablets					
Paracetamol 500mg tabs	32	2462		2624		2132	
Paracetamol 500mg tabs	100	29478		36998		55913	
Paracetamol 500mg soluble	60	5462		448		2485	
Ibuprofen 200mg	84	952		2084		5034	
Ibuprofen 400mg	84	1167		3046		4483	
Aspirin 75mg disp	28	4435		6062		4606	
Aspirin 75mg e/c	56	490		967		503	
Aspirin 300mg	32	60		192		0	
Codeine phosphate 15mg	28	14		224		308	
Codeine phosphate 30mg	28	159		3282		2795	
Codeine phosphate 60mg	28	24		193		0	

**4. How much did you pay for each of the above to each supplier?**

**5. How much did you spend for each of the above in total?**

The Trust considers the release of the spend together with the number tablets dispensed to be commercially sensitive under Section 43 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act. The information is exempt if disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any person, including the public authority holding the information. This is a qualified exemption and therefore subject to the public interest test.

We have considered the reasons for and against disclosure below:

**Reason against disclosure**

The Trust is part of the [CMU framework](#) whereby prices are confidential and protected by contractual arrangements.

The Trust is obliged to protect its commercial relationships with third parties; they must have confidence that their commercial information is secure.

**Reason in favour of disclosure**

There is considerable interest in ensuring the Trust is transparent about its spending of public money at a time when public finances are under considerable scrutiny and ensuring that the Trust is getting value for money.

We reached the view that, on balance, the public interest is better served by withholding this information under Section 43 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act because providing all the information would identify unit cost and this may impact on the CMU when negotiating with manufacturers.

**6. How many prescriptions in total did you make for each of the above?**

**7. How many of these prescriptions were free for the patient?**

**8. How much money were you paid by patients for each of the above?**

No prescriptions are made because we do not provide outpatient services or sell medicines.

Should you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please find enclosed an information sheet regarding copyright protection and the Trust's complaints procedure in the event that you are not satisfied with the response.

Yours sincerely

*Sue Smith*

**Sue Smith  
Information Governance Analyst**

Enc: Copyright Protection and Complaints Procedure Information Leaflet.

If you would like to complete a short survey in relation to your Freedom of Information request please scan the QR code below or click [here](#).

