

Ref: FOI/00486/CMICB
28 July 2023

Dear,

**Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000
Antidepressant Prescribing**

Thank you for your information request indicated in bold below, which has now been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 by NHS Cheshire & Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB). I am able to provide you with the following information and responses.

Please note from 01 July 2022, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) were disestablished, and their statutory functions and responsibilities inherited by NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB.

Your Request:

1) The numbers of patients who have been prescribed antidepressants in the following years after a phone consultation.

- 2018
- 2019
- 2020
- 2021
- 2022
- 2023 (so far)

2) The numbers of patients who have been prescribed antidepressants in the following years after one GP consultation regarding their mental health.

- 2018
- 2019
- 2020
- 2021
- 2022
- 2023 (so far)

3) Can I also confirm if there is a method by which the NHS tracks side effects experienced from use of these drugs?

Antidepressants in this instance refers to any of the following classifications of drugs: SSRIs, SNRIs, NASSAs, TCAs, SARIs, MAOIs.

Our Response:

1 – 2) Please be advised that NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB does not hold prescribing data for antidepressant medications between 2018 and 2023 (to date).

You may wish to redirect your request for this information to the NHS Business Services Authority (BSA) who hold prescribing and dispensing data and can be contacted for Freedom of Information requests via: nhsbsa.foirequests@nhs.net.

Additionally, you may also wish to visit the Open Prescribing website which hosts some publicly available information on prescribing data and can be accessed via: <https://openprescribing.net/>

3) Suspected side effects to medicines are reported to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) via the yellow card scheme: <https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/> and who can be contacted for Freedom of Information requests via: info@mhra.gov.uk

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this response or do not feel that your request has been answered as you would expect, please contact us to discuss.

We also wish to take this opportunity to inform you that, where you are not satisfied with the response to your request for information, a formal complaints and internal review process is available.

This can be formally requested by emailing foi@cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk and must be done within a reasonable time period (3 calendar months) from the date this response was issued.

Where you remain dissatisfied with our review under the Freedom of Information Act or the Environmental Information Regulations, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) for a review of your appeal decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our complaints procedure.

The ICO can be contacted at;

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
www.ico.gov.uk

Should you need any further clarification or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us quoting the above FOI reference.

