FOI 3490

Date 24/12/2024

Dear Requester,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request. Please note, this is a cross-site response for Bedford site and Luton site.

You asked:

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

500mg

(10 vial packs)

Year to date: 737

Last year: 835

1 gram

(10 vial packs)

Year to date: 3402

Last year: 4185

2 grams

Patients would be administered two of the 1g vials as the product is only available in 500mg and 1g vials

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

All areas

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

This is patient dependent as patients may require an escalation in treatment but empirically features in the following within the Trust guidance:

• Antenatal and intrapartum sepsis

• Lung abscess and empyema

• Liver abscess (bacterial)

• Antenatal urosepsis

• Postnatal urosepsis

• Fournier’s gangrene

• Acute pancreatitis

• Necrotising fasciitis

• Neutropenic sepsis

• Diabetic foot infection (moderate to severe)

• Meningitis

• Severe sepsis

Please note meropenem is not always first line and its use is indicated by patient presentation.

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

Bolus and infusion normally via gravity set

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

All ward areas

1. Do you face any challenges when administering Meropenem?

None reported

1. Do you frequently experience drug shortages of Meropenem?

None reported this year

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

None reported

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If you are not satisfied with the Trust review under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Officer (ICO) for a review of your appeal decision. The ICO can be contacted at: ICO, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF www.ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

*FOI Officer*

Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust