

Freedom of Information Act 2000**The Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust Response to Information request****Date Request Received: 26 11 2024****FOI Ref No: 27034****Requested Information:**

Could you provide answers to the below questions for each hospital in your trust, please?

1. How many doses of each of the following strengths of Meropenem do you administer annually?
 - 500mg
 - 1 gram
 - 2 grams
2. What are the main areas of your hospital where Meropenem is used?
3. What are the main conditions you use Meropenem to treat?
4. How do you currently administer Meropenem via bolus or infusion? If you infuse, do you use gravity or pump sets?
5. Where is your Meropenem currently reconstituted (e.g., wards or aseptic units)?
6. Do you face any challenges when administering Meropenem?
7. Do you frequently experience drug shortages of Meropenem?
8. How many medication errors do you experience per month when administering Meropenem?

Response:

1. During the period of October 2023 to November 2024, Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust issued the following numbers of doses of each of the following strengths of Meropenem to patients under its care
 - 500mg **12959**
 - 1 gram **5313**
 - 2 grams **0**During this time 76 patients were administered doses of 2g
2. What are the main areas of your hospital where Meropenem is used?
Meropenem is used throughout the trust but most frequently in **Acute and Emergency Medicine**
3. What are the main conditions you use Meropenem to treat? **Sepsis, e-coli and infections that do not respond to other antibiotics.**

4. How do you currently administer Meropenem via bolus or infusion? If you infuse, do you use gravity or pump sets? **Bolus**
5. Where is your Meropenem currently reconstituted (e.g., wards or aseptic units)? **Wards**
6. Do you face any challenges when administering Meropenem? **No**
7. Do you frequently experience drug shortages of Meropenem? **During the period November 2023 to October 2024 78% (by cost) of Meropenem 500mg was bought outside of contract.** This means that it was largely unavailable from the contracted supplier and so had to be purchased from alternative suppliers. Due to the diligence of our Pharmacy Purchasing team, stock at our hospitals was never at zero but the price paid was higher than if it had been available under contract. 1g doses did not experience shortages.
8. How many medication errors do you experience per month when administering Meropenem? **No medication errors were recorded during November 2023 to October 2024.** One issue was recorded in February 2024 with Meropenem not being available on the ward at the time it was due to be administered but this did not result in any harm to the patient.

Attachment(s):

Date Response sent: