

## Freedom of Information Act Request

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information:

This is an information request relating to NHS Trusts buying and supplying Paracetamol and ibuprofen.

Please include the following information for the financial years 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25:

- The total number of individual patients to whom paracetamol and ibuprofen were prescribed by your Trust annually.

2024/25 – Ibuprofen – 9134\*

2024/25 – Paracetamol – 27489\*

2023/24 – Ibuprofen – 5994\*

2023/24 – Paracetamol – 22807\*

2022/23 – Ibuprofen – 4322\*

2022/23 – Paracetamol – 20500\*

\*Please note these figures are for inpatient prescriptions and discharges for areas using the electronic prescribing system only (excludes any area not using electronic prescribing e.g. paediatrics, maternity, critical care, outpatients)

- The total amount spent by your Trust on supplying prescribed paracetamol and Ibuprofen in each of those financial years.

2024/25 – Ibuprofen – £21,566.10\*\*

2024/25 – Paracetamol - £128,250.68\*\*

2023/24 – Ibuprofen – £21,592.52\*\*

2023/24 – Paracetamol - £122,696.73\*\*

2022/23 – Ibuprofen – £15,632.98\*\*

2022/23 – Paracetamol – £90,039.47\*\*

\*\*note these figures are based on total supplies made from pharmacy for all use of all forms by wards/departments (includes inpatient and discharge supplies)

- If available, a breakdown of the form in which paracetamol was prescribed (e.g., tablets, capsules, liquid suspension, etc.) and associated costs for each form.

2024/25:

**PRELABEL** (DBH) PARACETAMOL (32) 500 mg Tablets	9,903.10
**PRELABEL** (DBH) PARACETAMOL 120 mg in 5mL Sugar-Free Suspension	754.35
**PRELABEL** (DBH) PARACETAMOL 250 mg in 5mL Sugar-Free Suspension	4,260.81
PARACETAMOL (Sugar Free) 120 mg in 5mL Oral Suspension	887.58
PARACETAMOL (Sugar Free) 250 mg in 5mL Oral Suspension	4,405.40
PARACETAMOL 1 g Infusion	63,503.70
PARACETAMOL 120 mg Suppositories	577.24
PARACETAMOL 120 mg in 5mL Oral Suspension	594.09
PARACETAMOL 240 mg Suppositories	844.22
PARACETAMOL 250 mg in 5mL Oral Suspension	26,771.21
PARACETAMOL 500 mg Infusion	160.60
PARACETAMOL 500 mg Soluble Tablets	1,353.47
PARACETAMOL 500 mg Suppositories	611.01
PARACETAMOL 500 mg Tablets	13,623.90
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>128,250.68</b>

2023/24:

**PRELABEL** (DBH) PARACETAMOL (32) 500 mg Tablets	6,798.02
**PRELABEL** (DBH) PARACETAMOL 120 mg in 5mL Sugar-Free Suspension	959.05
**PRELABEL** (DBH) PARACETAMOL 250 mg in 5mL Sugar-Free Suspension	2,833.05
PARACETAMOL (Bag) 1 g Infusion	5.00
PARACETAMOL (Sugar Free) 120 mg in 5mL Oral Suspension	1,112.81
PARACETAMOL (Sugar Free) 250 mg in 5mL Oral Suspension	5,237.60
PARACETAMOL 1 g Infusion	69,219.55
PARACETAMOL 120 mg Suppositories	254.95
PARACETAMOL 120 mg in 5mL Oral Suspension	720.14
PARACETAMOL 240 mg Suppositories	237.26
PARACETAMOL 250 mg in 5mL Oral Suspension	10,645.50
PARACETAMOL 500 mg Infusion	2,926.40
PARACETAMOL 500 mg Soluble Tablets	2,158.21
PARACETAMOL 500 mg Suppositories	744.54
PARACETAMOL 500 mg Tablets	18,844.79
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>122,696.87</b>

2022/23

<b>**PRELABEL** (DBH) PARACETAMOL (32) 500 mg Tablets</b>	<b>4,531.83</b>
<b>**PRELABEL** (DBH) PARACETAMOL 120 mg in 5mL Sugar-Free Suspension</b>	<b>353.07</b>
<b>**PRELABEL** (DBH) PARACETAMOL 250 mg in 5mL Sugar-Free Suspension</b>	<b>2,120.28</b>
<b>PARACETAMOL (Bag) 1 g Infusion</b>	<b>895.00</b>
<b>PARACETAMOL (Sugar Free) 120 mg in 5mL Oral Suspension</b>	<b>1,156.88</b>
<b>PARACETAMOL (Sugar Free) 250 mg in 5mL Oral Suspension</b>	<b>15,929.15</b>
<b>PARACETAMOL 1 g Infusion</b>	<b>31,439.10</b>
<b>PARACETAMOL 120 mg Suppositories</b>	<b>279.22</b>
<b>PARACETAMOL 120 mg in 5mL Oral Suspension</b>	<b>111.72</b>
<b>PARACETAMOL 240 mg Suppositories</b>	<b>521.99</b>
<b>PARACETAMOL 250 mg in 5mL Oral Suspension</b>	<b>3,492.07</b>
<b>PARACETAMOL 500 mg Infusion</b>	<b>1,260.00</b>
<b>PARACETAMOL 500 mg Soluble Tablets</b>	<b>1,637.85</b>
<b>PARACETAMOL 500 mg Suppositories</b>	<b>264.48</b>
<b>PARACETAMOL 500 mg Tablets</b>	<b>25,998.83</b>
<b>PARACETAMOL 60 mg Suppositories</b>	<b>48.00</b>
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>90,039.47</b>

- What are the specific conditions which qualify a patient to be prescribed paracetamol or ibuprofen? Or what is your general policy for qualifying a prescription for paracetamol or ibuprofen?

As per analgesic ladder and pain protocols – clinical need.

Regarding supplies on discharge, individual circumstances on a case by case basis including if patient has supply of own medicines at home and how mobile they are are etc.

If you are not satisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to request an internal review. Requests for an internal review should be submitted within 40 working days from the date of this response, and should be addressed to [d.wraith@nhs.net](mailto:d.wraith@nhs.net).

If you remain dissatisfied after the internal review, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow

Our Ref: 268

April 2025

Cheshire

SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113

Website: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>