



Medicines & Healthcare products
Regulatory Agency

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United Kingdom
[gov.uk/mhra](https://www.gov.uk/mhra)

[REDACTED]

30 October 2023

FOI 23/684

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request dated 30 September 2023, where you asked for:

“I’ve already tried using the interactive chart but there are hundreds of medications and, as a member of the public, I can’t be expected to know which are psychiatric medications.

As such, I’d be grateful if you could provide the number of yellow card reports for psychiatric medications in 2022 or the latest year for which you have data available”.

As you will know we responded to your initial request on 29 September 2023. You responded on 30 September 2023 detailing the difficulties you had with the interactive Drug Analysis Profiles (iDAPs) due to not knowing which medicines were used in psychiatry and as such which profiles to view.

We should explain that medicines within our database are stored at the level of substance rather than the condition(s) that the medicine was licensed to treat or by class of drug for instance. As such this is how the data is displayed via the iDAPs. We understand that you may not know which medicines to view via the iDAPs. As such and to be helpful, the NHS website may be useful particularly the [Medicines and psychiatry](#) page which list some of the medicines and types of medicines used to treat mental health conditions.

Using this information, we hope you are able to view the data that is of most interest to you via the [iDAPs](#) on the Yellow Card website. As you will know, each iDAP contains a complete listing of all suspected adverse reactions that have been



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reported to the MHRA via the Yellow Card scheme for a specific substance. You can find the drug substance by alphabetical order. On the iDAP page for specific a substance there are filters down the left-hand side so you can view the data as you wish in the tables and graphs.

When reviewing the data within iDAPs it is important to note that the information does not present a complete overview of the potential side effects associated with specific medicines. A list of the recognised adverse effects is found in the product information which can be found via our [website](#).

Further to this however you should note that some medicines have more than one licensed indication for use, i.e., can be used to treat more than one condition. For example, sodium valproate can be used to treat epilepsy and bipolar disorder. Therefore, please bear this in mind when viewing the published data along with the guidance for interpretation on the website.

Whilst we collect data on what the medicine has been used to treat, this is not a mandatory field and as such is not always reported. After reviewing the information on our website and the NHS webpage provided above, if you are interested in further data relating to a specific medicine and a specific mental health disorder please let us know and we can provide this in a format similar to the graphs and tables provided via the iDAPs.

I hope the information provided is helpful however please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely,

FOI Team,
Safety and Surveillance

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If you have a query about the information provided, please reply to this email

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date you receive this response and addressed to: info@mhra.gov.uk

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.



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If you were to remain dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you would have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Please bear in mind that the Information Commissioner will not normally review our handling of your request unless you have first contacted us to conduct an internal review. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF