



**Lincolnshire**  
Integrated Care Board

**Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board**

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26 March 2024

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DECISION NOTICE**

Dear Requester

**FOI Reference Number: 72728**

I refer to your email of 18 March 2024 requesting information in relation to synthetic opioid prescriptions issued.

I can confirm on behalf of NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) and in accordance with S.1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) that we do hold the information that you have requested. Please see further details below:

**As a result of proposed changes to the law on the use of synthetic opioid drugs (see Govt link below, and list of drugs) I would like to know some details about the prescribing of these drugs within Lincs ICB area in 2023.**

**How many synthetic opioid prescriptions were issued by GPs in the Lincs ICB area in 2023?**

143,270

I understand these could be multiple prescriptions to a single patient, therefore please specify either number of prescriptions in total, or the total number of patients being prescribed any of these drugs.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fifteen-new-synthetic-opioids-to-be-made-illegal#:~:text=Following%20advice%20from%20the%20Advisory,an%20unlimited%20fi ne%20or%20both.>

The fifteen new synthetic opioids to be added to Class A of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, subject to parliamentary approval, are:

- metonitazene
- protonitazene
- isotonitazene

- butonitazene
- flunitazene
- metodesnitazene (metazene)
- etodesnitazene (etazene)
- N-pyrrolidino-etonitazene (etonitazepyne)
- N-piperidiny-etonitazene (etonitazepipne)
- N-pyrrolidino protonitazene
- ethyleneoxynitazene
- N-desethyl protonitazene
- N-desethylisotonitazene
- N-desethyl-etonitazene
- brorphine

I hope that this answers your queries with the information we currently hold, but if I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

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 of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to

Arden & GEM Greater East Midlands Commissioning Support Unit  
 FOI TEAM/Corporate Communications Team  
 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, St John's House  
 East Street  
 Leicester  
 LE1 6NB

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided the ICB.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: telephone 0303 123 1113, email [icocasework@ico.org.uk](mailto:icocasework@ico.org.uk) and <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>

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Yours faithfully

Lindsay Parker  
 Senior Freedom of Information Officer

**On behalf of NHS Lincolnshire ICB**