



Freedom of Information Request

12th November 2024

Question

Why the SAS do not use Prednisolone in the pre-hospital environment. In addition, I want to reference yearly callouts of SAS crews due to exacerbation of COPD only, for 2023 and 2024

Answer

Prednisolone is utilised by Advanced Practitioners in the Scottish Ambulance Service. There was an update in the JRCALC Guidelines in February 2022 indicating the use of Prednisolone for asthma and COPD by prescribing clinicians or Advanced Practitioners utilising a PGD. The Advanced Practitioners (AP) have additional education, knowledge, and skills to inform the decision making for the use of prednisolone.

Those not qualified have access to the hydrocortisone injection. Not every patient crew encounter will be able to take an oral medication, and Hydrocortisone will cover every patient regardless as well as having a wider scope of use (adrenal crisis).

The Scottish Ambulance Service does not hold a dataset for COPD only incidents, it is for this reason we have applied section 17 of the Freedom of Information Scotland Act 2002, information not held.

Below is a table detailing the number of incidents attended where COPD has been noted by the crew.

Calendar Year	Number Incidents Attended COPD Noted
2,023	7,303
2,024	6,041