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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Bae Abertawe
Swansea Bay University
Health Board

Cadeirydd Dros Dro/ Interim Chair: **Emma Woollett**
Prif Weithredwr/Chief Executive: **Tracy Myhill**

gofalu am ein gilydd, cydweithio, gwella bob amser
caring for each other, working together, always improving

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg ac yn y Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Dyddiad/Date: 20th September 2019
Ein Cyf / Our Ref: 19-H-035

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✉ FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk

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██████████

Corporate Services
Headquarters
1 Talbot Gateway
Baglan
Port Talbot, SA12 7BR

██████████

I refer to your Freedom of Information Act Request acknowledged by ourselves on 4th September 2019. Your request sought information relating to Axial Spondyloarthritis Services.

Recognition and Referral

- Does your Health Board have a specified pathway from primary care to secondary care for inflammatory back pain in place?**

Yes

If you answered 'yes', please give details below of the pathway and, if applicable, arrangements in place to raise awareness in primary care

Pathway of direct electronic referral to rheumatology. If referred to musculoskeletal services (MCAS) we have ability to move referral to correct pathway. Close interaction with MCAS to also allow onward referral from them to rheumatology.

Diagnosis in specialist care settings

- What is the average current waiting time to diagnosis for a patient referred with inflammatory back pain?**

Our current waiting time is 2-3 months.

- Are patients with suspected axial SpA (AS) routinely referred for a full spinal MRI?**

Yes



Pencadlys BIP Bae Abertawe, Un Porthfa Talbot, Port Talbot, SA12 7BR / Swansea Bay UHB Headquarters, One Talbot Gateway, Port Talbot, SA12 7BR

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Bae Abertawe yw enw gweithredu Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Prifysgol Bae Abertawe
Swansea Bay University Health Board is the operational name of Swansea Bay University Local Health Board

Information and Support

4. How do you ensure patients are given information and support following their diagnosis?

Patient information from Versus Arthritis. Access to nurse-led telephone support.

Please select whichever response options apply

Option	Please tick here (tick all that apply)
Written information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Verbal information	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Access to a helpline	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Named contact in the team	<input type="checkbox"/>
Group educational sessions	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please provide details)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Pharmacological management of axial SpA (AS)

5. What guidance are patients with axial SpA (AS) given when deciding whether to access biologic treatment?

Clinical consultation with rheumatologists / Specialist nurses. Information from Versus Arthritis.

6. Bearing in mind the NICE anti TNF guidance for ankylosing spondylitis (TA383) states that, *'Treatment with another anti TNF is recommended for people who cannot tolerate, or whose disease has not responded to, treatment with the first TNF-alpha inhibitor, or whose disease has stopped responding after an initial response'*, after failure with one biologic, how many other biologics will your commissioners fund a patient with axial SpA (AS) to try, including IL 17As?

Option	Please tick here (one option only)
None	<input type="checkbox"/>
1	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 or more	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Non-pharmacological management of axial SpA

7. What proportion of adults with axial SpA (AS) are referred to a specialist physiotherapist for a structured exercise programme within your local area when first diagnosed?

All are offered referrals to a specialist physiotherapist. The Health Board does not hold centrally how many patients take up this offer.

Flare management

8. What percentage of patients with axial SpA (AS) have a written care plan to support them with a flare?

No written care plans but immediate access to nurse helpline

Organisation of care

9. Does the Health Board have a dedicated axial SpA (AS) clinic?

Option	Please tick here (one option only)
Yes	
No	✓ seen as part of general rheumatology clinics

Mental health and well being

10. Are axial SpA (AS) patients under the care of a rheumatologist offered access to psychological services?

Option	Please tick here (one option only)
Yes	
No	✓

I hope this information is helpful. If you require anything further please contact us at FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk.

Under the terms of the Health Board's Freedom of Information policy, individuals seeking access to recorded information held by the Health Board are entitled to request internal review of the handling of their requests. If you would like to complain about the Health Board's handling of your request please contact me directly at the address below or register your complaint via FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk.



If after Internal Review you remain dissatisfied you are also entitled to refer the matter to the information commissioner at the Information Commissioner's Office (Wales), 2nd Floor, Churchill House, Churchill Way, Cardiff, CF10 2HH. Telephone Number: 029 2067 8400.

Yours sincerely



Pam Wenger
Director of Corporate Governance

