



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

Dyddiad/Date: 9th January 2020
Ein Cyf / Our Ref: 19-L-011

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✉ FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk

[Redacted]

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

I refer to your Freedom of Information Act Request acknowledged by ourselves on 12th December 2019. Your request sought information relating to radiotherapy waiting times.

1. I would like to know the target time between referral to a breast cancer oncologist, by a surgeon, and the subsequent appointment to discuss radiotherapy treatment, for a patient who has already had breast cancer surgery.

I can confirm that the Health Board does not hold this information. We do not have target times between referral to and appointment to discuss radiotherapy for a post-surgery breast cancer patient.

There are however recommended targets set by the Joint Collegiate Council for Oncology (JCCO) for waiting times between the date of first oncology consultation and the start of radiotherapy or chemotherapy (1993) for all types of cancer patients, which the Health Board works to:

Recommended targets

4.4 Recommended waiting time targets from the date of first oncology consultation to the start of radiotherapy or chemotherapy:

1 For urgent radiotherapy or chemotherapy	
Good practice	24 hours
Maximum acceptable	48 hours
2 For palliative radiotherapy (according to severity of symptoms)	
Good practice	48 hours
Maximum acceptable	2 weeks (for non-severe symptoms)
3 For radical radiotherapy involving complex treatment planning	
Good practice	2 weeks
Maximum acceptable	4 weeks*



2. I would also like to know what the NHS Wales guidance is on this waiting time.

The Welsh Government has recently formally adopted the Clinical Oncology Sub-Committee (COSC) 'Time to Radiotherapy' Performance Metric in April 2019. These are essentially the JCCO 'good practice' targets mentioned in Q1 although within a formal metric.

These are clinically meaningful metrics for a vital part of the cancer treatment pathway. See below:

Time to Radiotherapy	Emergency	Urgent Symptom Control	Routine	Elective Delay
Yr0 - July '18				
100% target	2 days	14 days	28 days	28 days
Yr1 - April '19				
80% target	1 day	7 days	21 days	21 days
20% target	2 days	14 days	28 days	28 days
Yr3 - April '21				
80% target	1 day	2 days	14 days	7 days
20% target	2 days	7 days	21 days	14 days
Yr5 - April '23				
80% target	1 day	2 days	14 days	0 days
20% target	2 days	7 days	21 days	7 days

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

