

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

Dyddiad/Date: 9<sup>th</sup> August 2019  
Ein Cyf / Our Ref: 19-G-017

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✉ FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk

[REDACTED]

Corporate Services  
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[REDACTED]

I refer to your Freedom of Information Act Request acknowledged by ourselves on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2019. Your request sought information relating to heart valve disease.

**Heart valve disease (HVD) is a collective term referring to valve stenosis, valve obstruction or valve regurgitation. These conditions can affect the tricuspid, mitral, pulmonary or aortic valves. HVD is defined by the following ICD-11 codes: I05.0-I08.9; I34.0-I39.4.**

**All data requested is for the most recent data collection period – assumed to be April 2018 – March 2019 for Swansea Bay Health Board only**

- a) **Please indicate the total numbers of patients diagnosed with heart valve disease by ICD codes:**
- b) **Please indicate the total number of regular attender episodes recorded for patients who suffer with heart valve disease:**

See below information for question (a) and (b). Where fewer than 5 has been indicated we are unable to provide you with the exact number of patients as due to the low numbers, there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. We are therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This information is protected by the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 and its disclosure would be contrary to the data protection principles and constitute as unfair and unlawful processing in regard to Articles 5, 6, and 9 of GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.



Diagnosis Code	Regular day admission (b)	Other (a)	Grand Total
I05	0	48	48
I06	0	12	12
I07	<5	100	*
I08	13	933	946
I34	41	633	674
I35	53	2254	2307
I36	7	42	49
I37	0	11	11
I39	0	3	3
<b>Grand Total</b>	*	4036	*

- c) **Does the Health Board collect data on the number of patients diagnosed with heart valve disease who are:**
- Admitted to hospital (yes/no)** Yes
  - Not admitted to hospital (yes/no)** No
  - Referred for surgery (yes/no)** No
  - Referred for alternative treatment or management (ie not surgery) (yes/no)** No

If yes, please indicate total numbers in the boxes below:

i. Admitted to hospital	ii. Not admitted to hospital	iii. Referred for surgery	iv. Referred for alternative treatment
TAVI 118 Surgery 226	N/A	N/A	N/A

- d) **Does the Health Board collect information on the reasons for not referring an HVD patient for surgery ? (yes/no)** No
- e) **How many patients are currently waiting for an echocardiogram in your Health Board?**  
920 patients
- f) **What is the average wait for patients for an echocardiogram?**  
The health board target is to complete echocardiograms within 8 weeks. We report on this each week and are currently meeting the target, with no breaches anticipated in August.
- g) **What is the average wait for an echocardiogram by patients subsequently diagnosed with heart valve disease?**

The Health Board does not record this information



- h) **For in-patients diagnosed with heart valve disease, what was the average time from diagnosis to first treatment?** The Health Board does not record this information
- i) **How many patients have been transferred to a CCG in England for: 0**
- i. **Heart valve disease surgery, treatment or care: Not applicable**
  - ii. **Echocardiogram(s):** Not applicable
  - iii.
- j) **If possible, please list the names (with numbers of patient transferred) of the Health Boards where patients are transferred for:** Not applicable
- i. **Heart valve disease surgery, treatment or care**
  - ii. **Echocardiogram(s)**

- k) **What is the patient pathway followed for patients suspected of having heart valve disease?**

Patients will be referred to Cardiology from their GP once heart valve disease is suspected. The Cardiologist will request the relevant diagnostic tests which will inform a clinical decision on the patient's treatment and management.

I hope this information is helpful. If you require anything further please contact us at [FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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), 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Churchill House, Churchill Way, Cardiff, CF10 2HH. Telephone Number: 029 2067 8400.

Yours sincerely



On behalf of

Pam Wenger

**Director of Corporate Governance**

