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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: 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019  
Ein Cyf / Our Ref: 19-E-034

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Port Talbot, SA12 7BR

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I refer to your Freedom of Information Act Request acknowledged by ourselves on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019. We apologise for the delay in responding. Your request sought information relating to autonomic dysreflexia.

**Q1. Does the Board have a formal written policy for digital rectal examination, digital rectal stimulation and the digital removal of faeces in spinal cord injured and other patients with neurogenic bowel dysfunction?**

No. The Health Board does not have a specific policy. We would adhere to the procedure set down by 'Royal Marsden Clinical Procedure' Chapter 5.2.1 'Elimination'. Training has recently been provided for identified Key Clinical nursing staff re Autonomic Dysreflexia, which included the need for good bowel care especially patients with Spinal Injury T6 and above. Also to encourage the ethos of the 'expert patient knows best'.

**Q2. Following recommendation of this patient safety notice, did the Board "review your local clinical policy and guidance relating to bowel assessment and management"?**

Yes – produced a new policy.

New Guidelines for the management of Autonomic Dysreflexia have been produced which are in draft and awaiting ratification. The Health Board established a Task & Finish group (Continence advisors, ED senior nurse, Matron Neuro Injuries, Practice Development Nurse), who with the advice from the Clinical Nurse Specialist at Rookwood Hospital developed Health Board Guidance regarding Management and Treatment of Autonomic Dysreflexia.



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

**Q3. Is your policy based on the Spinal Injuries Association's template?**

No. Guidance is based on good practice from Rookwood Spinal Injury Unit - Cardiff

**Q4. If admitted to the Board will a person with neurogenic bowel dysfunction receive the following bowel care intervention – Digital removal faeces?**

The Health Board would always assess our patient's needs and allow them to decide to decide which treatment was most appropriate for them. Care will be provided in line with the Health Board's guidance and Royal Marsden guidance. Work is ongoing to reinforce good practice in line with the draft guidance

**Q5. If admitted to the Board will a person with neurogenic bowel dysfunction receive the following bowel care intervention –Digital rectal stimulation?**

The Health Board would always assess our patient's needs and allow them to decide to decide which treatment was most appropriate for them. Care will be provided in line with the Health Board's guidance and Royal Marsden guidance

**Q6. If admitted to the Board will a person with neurogenic bowel dysfunction receive the following bowel care intervention –Trans anal irrigation?**

The Health Board would always assess our patient's needs and allow them to decide to decide which treatment was most appropriate for them. Care will be provided in line with the patient's care plan and guidance.

**Q7. Are staff available seven days a week to undertake these bowel care interventions?**

Yes, it is the Health Boards intention that a member of staff should be available at all times to undertake the necessary bowel care intervention. Training has been commenced; further training will be put in place.

**Q8. Has the Board reviewed local education and training provision for interventional bowel management, as recommended in the Patient Safety Notice?**

Yes, the Health Board has reviewed local education and training provision.

**Q9. Has the Board shared "reviewed local guidance, advice on how to identify staff who can provide DRF, and the key messages in this note with medical, nursing and other relevant clinical staff"?**

Yes, key nursing staff have received training. Further training will be set up.



**Q10. Does the Board have a policy that allows for the personal care assistants/carers of spinal cord injured patients to assist with this element of the patient's care?**

Trained Registered staff would normally undertake procedures, but in some cases where the patient prefers their usual help we would seek to meet the needs wherever possible.

**Q11. As recommended in the Patient Safety Notice, have you identified "an appropriate clinical leader to co-ordinate implementation of this notice"?**

Yes (please answer Q12, but ignore Q13)

**Q12. What are the contact details for the "appropriate clinical leader"(i.e. name, position, telephone and email)?**

Aidan Byrne Deputy Medical Director Aidan.byrne@wales.nhs.uk

**Q13. Why has your Board not appointed an "appropriate clinical leader"?**

Not applicable see question 12.

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



Pam Wenger  
**Director of Corporate Governance**

