

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

Dyddiad/Date: 06.08.20
Ein Cyf / Our Ref: 20-G-013

☎ 01639 648363
✉ FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk

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

Dear

I refer to your Freedom of Information Act Request acknowledged by ourselves on 10th July 2020. Your request sought information relating to mental health medication.

1) How many patients were treated within your health board after an overdose of medication for mental health (due to misuse) e.g. benzodiazepines such as xanax/alprazolam (or xanax false), valium/diazepam, klonopin/clonazepam.

- a) 2016**
- b) 2017**
- c) 2018**
- d) 2019**
- e) 2020 to date (figures for each month please)**

The numbers below are inpatient admissions between 01/01/16 and 31/05/20 inclusive with an ICD10 diagnosis code of 'X61' AND 'T424'. Please note that a patient may be admitted on more than one occasion. The figures below represent the number of admissions.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Jan	5	6	5	6	<5
Feb	<5	8	5	6	5
Mar	<5	8	5	10	<5
Apr	8	6	<5	5	6
May	10	11	7	<5	14
Jun	8	6	8	<5	
Jul	<5	7	9	5	



Aug	6	9	13	<5	
Sep	9	6	5	7	
Oct	<5	8	7	<5	
Nov	5	<5	5	<5	
Dec	8	<5	8	<5	

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.

2) How many deaths have there been within your health board as a result of overdose/misuse of mental health drugs e.g. benzodiazepines such as xanax/alprazolam (or fake Xanax), valium/diazepam, klonopin/clonazepam in:

- a) 2016**
- b) 2017**
- c) 2018**
- d) 2019**
- e) 2020 to date (figures for each month, please)**

Please note that the cause of death would usually be recorded on a death certificate and if cause is not clear, then this would be determined by a coroner. Therefore this information is not held centrally within the Health Board

The Health Board would hold information on the number of patients who died whilst admitted with the diagnosis of overdose, however the overdose would not necessarily be the cause of death.

I can confirm that for the period requested the number who died whilst admitted with the diagnosis of overdose is very few.

This being the case it is considered that such information should be withheld Section 41 of the Act and therefore denies your request.

Section 41 of the Act sets out an exemption from the right to know where the information requested was provided to the public authority in confidence. The component which is applicable relates to the disclosure of the information would give rise to an actionable breach of confidence. In other words, if the Health Board disclosed the information being sought this could lead to their identification which would be unfair and inappropriate.

A duty of confidentiality does continue after the death of an individual to whom that duty is owed. Where there is a legally enforceable duty of confidentiality owed to a living individual, after death it can be enforced by the deceased's personal representative.

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

