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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Bae Abertawe
Swansea Bay University
Health Board

Cadeirydd/Chair: **Emma Woollett**
Prif Weithredwr/Chief Executive: **Mark Hackett**

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

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg. Atebir gohebiaeth Gymraeg yn y Gymraeg, ac ni fydd hyn yn arwain at oedi.
We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English. Welsh language correspondence will be replied to in Welsh, and this will not lead to a delay.

Dyddiad/Date: 28th September 2021
Ein Cyf / Our Ref: 21-H-039

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📧 FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk
Corporate Services
Headquarters
1 Talbot Gateway
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Port Talbot, SA12 7BR

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I refer to your Freedom of Information Act Request acknowledged by ourselves on 1st September 2021. Your request sought information relating to waiting times for cleft repair.

I am requesting data affecting children with cleft lip and palate from birth to 24 months only. I appreciate there will be outliers out of your control and if there are co-founders such as Ill health or other surgical procedures with priorities that affect the usual surgical pathway of cleft lip and palate then please exclude that data.

You clarified on 1st September 2021 that you would like the timeframe to cover from birth to date of surgery, and to include data for premature children.

Please note that we have included ALL patients, including those who are premature, have other medical conditions which could have delayed surgery as well as those impact by the delays in COVID. In order to exclude these patients would require a manual trawl of their records in order to manually exclude them and/or to adjust their waiting times to account for their prematurity (as premature children's waiting times are adjusted so their developmental ages matches their prematurity, thus having an impact on the length of days before they are seen.)

Our usual "waiting time" would be a range of;

- 3-6 months for lip repair (92-184 days)
- 6-9 months for palate repair (184 – 275 days)



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

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Some patients have a higher number of days than our usual waiting time. When viewing this figures, please take into account that there could be a number of reasons for this. For example, they could have a complex medical history, be born pre-term or because of the surgical delays associated with COVID, amongst other reasons. There may be children included in these figures that required more than one stage repair (over 2 or more procedures) therefore their wait in days will be a lot longer than the usual due to this.

For Bi-lateral cleft lip and palate.

1. The mean, mode and range surgical wait times from birth for primary lip repair and primary palate repair for 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 so far. If planned second stage palate repair is required please also provide this data.

Primary Lip Repair for bilateral cleft lip and palate patients

2018

Mean - 142

Mode - not applicable - all patients had different wait times

Range - 117

2019

Mean - 171.5

Mode - not applicable - all patients had different wait times

Range - 92

2020 - 0

2021

Mean - 388

Mode - not applicable - all patients had different wait times

Range - 656

Primary Palate Repair for bilateral cleft lip and palate patients

2018

Mean - 253.5

Mode - not applicable - all patients had different wait times

Range - 75

2019

Mean - 302.1

Mode - not applicable - all patients had different wait times

Range - 57

2020

We are unable to provide you with the level of detail you are seeking as to the waiting times for this procedures as due to the very low number involved, there is



a potential risk of identifying the individual if this was disclosed. Therefore, the data is classed as personal data as defined under 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. We are therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

2021

Mean – 285.5

Mode - not applicable – all patients had different wait times

Range - 67

For unilateral cleft lip and palate.

2. The mean, mode and range surgical wait times from birth for primary lip repair and primary palate repair for 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 so far.

Primary Lip Repair for unilateral cleft lip and palate patients

2018

Mean – 130.8

Mode - not applicable – all patients had different wait times

Range - 142

2019

Mean – 131.2

Mode - not applicable – all patients had different wait times

Range - 82

2020

Mean - 148

Mode - not applicable – all patients had different wait times

Range - 81

2021

Mean - 163

Mode - not applicable – all patients had different wait times

Range - 126

Primary Palate Repair for unilateral cleft lip and palate patients

2018

Mean – 243.2

Mode - 241

Range - 49



2019

Mean - 261

Mode - not applicable – all patients had different wait times

Range - 121

2020

Mean - 226

Mode - not applicable – all patients had different wait times

Range - 184

2021

Mean – 231.2

Mode - not applicable – all patients had different wait times

Range - 83

For cleft palate.

3. The mean, mode and range surgical wait times from birth for primary palate repair for 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 so far.

Primary Palate Repair only

2018

Mean – 261.9

Mode - not applicable – all patients had different wait times

Range - 207

2019

Mean – 362.5

Mode - not applicable – all patients had different wait times

Range - 874

2020

Mean – 286.5

Mode - 233

Range - 466

2021

Mean – 291.8

Mode - not applicable – all patients had different wait times

Range - 446

For cleft lip.

4. The mean, mode and range surgical wait times from birth for primary lip repair for 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 so far.

Primary Lip Repair only



2018

Mean - 112

Mode - 92

Range - 56

2019

Mean - 122.7

Mode - not applicable - all patients had different wait times

Range - 52

2020

Mean - 210.3

Mode - 103

Range - 258

2021

Mean - 166.5

Mode - not applicable - all patients had different wait times

Range - 195

FSSA.

5. Please can you also provide data for any palate surgery on infants that has breached priority 2 FSSA guidance set up during covid and lip surgery that has breached priority 3 FSSA guidance without a specified co-founder?

Not applicable - nil

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

