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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 ac yn y Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Dyddiad/Date: 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021  
Ein Cyf / Our Ref: 21-F-017

☎ 01639 648363

✉ FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk

[REDACTED]

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

[REDACTED]

I refer to your Freedom of Information Act Request acknowledged by ourselves on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021. Your request sought information relating to a FOIA response we sent you in April 2021 regarding bariatric surgery.

### **Q1. Why of the 647 patients that met the criteria, have only 237 have been treated?**

The reasons for not meeting the criteria, were stated in our response to you in April, this can be due to the following:

- Lack of Level 3 gatekeeping service local to the patient to properly assess suitability for surgery prior to referral. These patients are referred back to Level 3 for more robust assessment.
- Lack of capacity in the Level 4 service
- Age of Patient
- Significant mental health issues
- Eating disorders

### **Q2 What is the current length of wait for;**

#### **Q2a. Referral to gatekeeping decision that is not accepted**

This could be at the time the grading form is reviewed by the consultant which is approximately 2 weeks' or the decision would come from the outcome of discussions at MDT. The original wait Pre-Covid for MDT was approx. 20 weeks, the current wait for MDT is 71 weeks.



**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

## **Q2b. Referral to gatekeeping decision that is accepted**

As above, this would also be from the time the referral form was graded which is approx. 2 weeks to MDT discussion (71 weeks). Once accepted the patient would then need Education and First appointment and possibly Dietician or Psychology support over a timescale (each patient is different as to the amount of support they would need), the patient would require a second outpatient appointment with a consultant before being placed on the waiting list for surgery.

## **Q2c. Once accepted, what is the length of wait to see the surgical team**

The initial stage would be education and first appointment, Pre Covid the waiting list for Education was 30 weeks now currently 66 weeks. We have recommenced Education appointments in a group setting of six patients per session to alleviate the backlog created during the pandemic.

## **Q2d. Once accepted, what is the length of wait to have surgery.**

Pre-covid the waiting list for surgical patients who we were able to treated at Singleton Hospital (for patients with a BMI less than 50) was 15 weeks, for Morriston Hospital was 42 weeks (for patients with a BMI over than 50 or patients who had comorbidities). The current waiting time is 78 weeks for Singleton and 125 weeks for Morriston.

## **Q3. What is the level 3 gatekeeping service for Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB?**

Cwm Taf are currently developing a Level 3 unit (under the direction of Dr Dai Samuel and Dr Peter Neville). This will address the ongoing issues with the Bariatric service receiving patients who have not been properly assessed prior to referral, the level 3 service at Cwm Taf will ensure this happens.

## **Q4. How has Covid affected this service in the length of waits and availability of surgery?**

The waiting times has increased as we have not been able to see or treat any Bariatric patients other than emergency admissions as per WAG guidelines and restrictions. Consultants and Bariatric specialist nurse have however had virtual appointments and telephone consultations with patients who are on the follow-up waiting list.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. a. wenger". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Pam Wenger  
**Director of Corporate Governance**

