



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.

Cais Rhyddid Gwybodaeth / Freedom of Information request **Ein Cyf / Our Ref: 23-D-035**

You asked:

1. What steps are being taken to effectively implement the All-Wales Abnormal Liver Blood Test Pathway?

The All-Wales Pathway is a national approach for early identification of liver disease. Non-invasive tests based on blood tests are currently being used in primary care to risk stratify liver disease. For example, AST/ALT Ratio, NAFLD fibrosis score, FIB 4 test.

a. Are non-invasive liver fibrosis tests (e.g. FibroScan) currently in use in primary and community care to improve earlier detection of liver disease?

The Fibroscans are being carried out in the community in outreach clinics, but are not performed by Primary Care practitioners within Swansea Bay University Health Board.

2. What steps are being taken to deliver outcomes under the Quality Statement on Liver Disease?

What preventative action is being taken to reduce pre-disposing risk factors for liver disease such as alcohol misuse and obesity?

Early screening based on risk stratification is performed in primary care to look for evidence of advanced liver disease. During the screening in secondary care or community, life style intervention advice is delivered by the person performing the Fibroscan (mainly nurses). Advice regarding alcohol misuse and obesity are given to patients attending secondary care. Similarly, questionnaires devised to pick up problem alcohol use are used in the primary care setting.

a. What are the current staffing levels for hepatologists, liver nurse specialists and alcohol care teams? Is this sufficient to meet local need or will further recruitment or training be undertaken?

2 FTE Hepatologists, 3 FTE Liver Clinical Nurse Specialist, 1 AfC Band 6



and 1 AfC Band 5 alcohol care nurses (substance misuse). 1 Band 7 has been advertised to fill a vacancy.

Further recruitment and advertisements are underway with an offer of training to interested Gastroenterologists to upskill as Hepatologists. We are also looking to expand the number of Liver / Blood Borne Virus Clinical Nurse Specialists.

Recruitment is discussed regularly in service meetings.

