



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

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.

Cais Rhyddid Gwybodaeth / Freedom of Information request **Ein Cyf / Our Ref: 23-B-016**

We aim to safely discharge patients as soon as they are medically well enough to leave.

Delays in discharge can happen for a number of reasons including the patient not having a safe place readily available to return or move to; the selection of a care home, or waiting for a bed in a care home.

In some cases, a safe place may require additional support being put in place, like home adaptations or community support arrangements, which are often arranged by other organisations. We work closely with our partner organisations to ensure all necessary arrangements are put in place as quickly as possible.

You asked:

I'd like to request the data collected in relation to delayed transfers of care in the Welsh NHS from February 2020 to date.

Delayed discharge / transfer of care data doesn't appear to have been published since February 2022 on the StatsWales website, however the Welsh Government suggests the 'Delivery Unit' is collecting similar data (<https://www.gov.wales/delayed-transfers-care>)

In particular I was hoping if you could confirm how the data you collect is gathered – including whether there is any data relating to the reasons for the delayed transfer or how long the delays may be?

Our response:

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Welsh Government suspended delayed transfers of care (DTOC) reporting requirements. In the interim, Welsh Government introduced the COVID-19 Discharge Requirements, which included a new discharge process with increased focus on rehabilitation and reablement. The Welsh Government emergency care policy and performance team and the NHS Delivery Unit have been



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collecting interim weekly delayed discharge data to manage the new arrangements. This data does not measure delayed transfers of care in the same way as the previous data collection, and has not been assessed against the standards of the Code of Practice for Statistics. The data collection was started as part of a Covid response rather than for reporting or performance management. It is not published as it is unvalidated management data. Work is underway to re-introduce the monthly "delayed transfers of care" reporting.

The Delivery Unit is hosted by Swansea Bay Health Board, therefore the information we have provided covers all acute hospitals in Wales, however is not reported at a hospital level therefore we are not able to break this down further by hospital or reasons for delay.

The figures provided represent the number of patients waiting to be discharged, no longer requiring care in the current hospital they are in, following the second afternoon count on the Tuesday of each week. As the data is unvalidated management data used for longitudinal monitoring, it should just represent those waiting for discharge, however we cannot guarantee it does not also include patients waiting for transfer to another acute site.

Please see attached data.

