



GIG
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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.

Cais Rhyddid Gwybodaeth / Freedom of Information request **Ein Cyf / Our Ref: 23-A-045**

We responded to your initial request on 10th February 2023 stating the health Board does not have its own policy relating to sperm preservation for male cancer patients, but follows the WHSSC CP38 policy. You then responded to us on the same date with the further query;

The response provides only a very broad policy.

Specifically, I have found the attached policy for NHS England. I assume that a similar policy must exist in Wales in respect of methods of sperm retrieval funded by the NHS.

**Are you saying that Swansea health board has no policy at all in relation to how sperm should be retrieved if being frozen / utilised for IVF?
Funding decisions would have been made as to what the health board will fund and therefore there must be a written protocol to reflect that.**

Our response:

I can confirm that Swansea Bay Health Board have no standalone policy relating to sperm retrieval. As stated previously the Health Board follow the WHSSC CP38 policy.

The CP38 policy is currently being reviewed and a consultation period was undertaken by the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC) in the period 25th November 2022 to 27th February 2023 to address any topics omitted from said policy, which will include sperm retrieval.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) are currently in the process of reviewing and updating Clinical Guideline CG156: Fertility problems: assessment and treatment <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/indevelopment/gid-ng10263/documents>. This guideline is due to publish in November 2024. WHSSC will then consider the impact of the updated NICE guideline on the recommendations in CP38 at that time.



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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Swansea Bay University Health Board is the operational name of Swansea Bay University Local Health Board

Fertility cryopreservation is available under CP38 and individuals do not have to be eligible under WHSSC IVF criteria. Where patients are about to embark on IVF treatment sperm are retrieved from either ejaculated samples or if necessary from a surgical procedure which forms part of that cycle of IVF treatment. The decision to use ejaculated sperm or to schedule a man for a surgical sperm retrieval is based on clinical judgement.

There is no current national guidance on how sperm are retrieved, although this may change depending on the new policy consultation.

If you wish to find out more information on the CP38 policy or the progress of the consultation, please contact WHSSC directly on WHSSC.GeneralEnquiries@wales.nhs.uk

