

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTHB_390_16

You asked:

Where possible, please could you answer all questions with reference to the period since January 2010 and break down the results by year.

- 1. How many people in the Health Board are:**
 - a. Diagnosed with myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (M.E.)?**
 - b. Estimated to have M.E.?**

We do not provide specific targeted services/clinics for this group of patients. Also, we do not collect information regarding patients with these conditions and therefore it is not possible to provide the actual numbers of individuals who are diagnosed for CFS/ME in the Cwm Taf area.

Based on prevalence data within NICE guidance it's estimated that between 5,780 and 11,560 people within Cwm Taf have ME or CFS.

- 2. Are there specialist local services for people with M.E. commissioned within the Health Board? If yes:**
 - a. What services are commissioned?**
 - b. How much does it cost annually to run each service?**

Cwm Taf University Health Board does not commission specialist secondary care services for ME/CFS patients.

The care of patients with these conditions is managed across a range of services provided by the integrated health board. Many patients will also be cared for solely within the Primary Care and Community services (outside of hospital environments).

We do not hold a budget for patients with these specific conditions. Dependent on their particular circumstances, patients will receive care from a range of professionals within the Health Board and therefore the budget will be provided from a number of different departments and service areas for example therapies, rheumatology, mental health, primary and community care.

3. What other local services are people with M.E. directed to after diagnosis?

In line with Welsh Government Guidelines, diagnosis is normally made within the primary care setting. The services patients are directed towards will vary depending on the GP practice and patient need. Patients may be signposted to third sector services such as the Expert Patient Programme (EPP).

4. Have people diagnosed with M.E. in the locality been referred to out-of-area specialist M.E. services? If any:

a. How many were referred?

b. What was the overall cost to the Health Board for the out-of-area provision of specialist services for people with M.E.?

No patients have been referred out of area.