

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTHB_338_18

Thank you for your request for information received on 3 August 2018. Please find the response from Cwm Taf University Health Board set out below:

You asked:

I have been given a collection of leaflets regarding antenatal screening in pregnancy. The leaflet recommends that I contact you directly to enquire about local policy in respect of the confidentiality of the screening results.

"Will my results be confidential? The NHS keeps the results of all blood tests confidential. Hospital policies on how many people have access to your test results vary. Your midwife will be able to explain the local arrangements to you."

I should be grateful if you could provide me with any policies and explain any local arrangements in relation to the test results mentioned in the following leaflet. Particularly how many people will have access to the test results. Please could you be specific i.e. Dr's, midwives, GP's, Health Visitors, secretaries, admin staff, nurses, outside agencies.

I have made enquiries with my midwife who was only able to state that 'all staff involved in your care will know'. I am unclear which staff the results would be relevant to. Please also indicate how the results will be stored, where they will be recorded i.e. in electronic or manual records, the manner in which they may be transferred.

In addition, who may access the results either during pregnancy or in the future and how their access is recorded.

'Infections and Pregnancy Protecting Your Baby'

<http://www.antenatalscreening.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/documents/968/IP18E%20Infections%20in%20pregnancy%20English%20March%202018.pdf>

Our response:

All screening results are available online via health board systems and accessible to all health professionals involved in the care of a pregnant woman, this would include midwives, obstetricians and support staff. Also GPs and other health care professionals in the general practice that would require access to online results relating to antenatal care. All health professionals that access online results are monitored and recorded within the system.

All results are printed and sent to the antenatal clinic for filing in the maternity records, this filing is carried out by staff members from antenatal clinic. Results are also hand written in the maternity notes within the handheld maternity record by the named community midwife. Results are not shared without outside agencies.

Should care be transferred during pregnancy to another Health Board results would be shared in order to facilitate appropriate management of the pregnancy or postnatal period.

The Health Board's privacy notice may also provide further clarity in terms of our responsibilities to safeguard data (link [here](#)).

Data protection legislation places a statutory duty on organisations to protect the personal information they hold and process. We must ensure that appropriate technical and organisational measures are in place to keep information confidential and secure.

NHS Wales staff must uphold the following Caldicott Principles in relation to patient information:

- Principle 1 - Justify the purpose(s) for using confidential information
- Principle 2 - Don't use personal confidential data unless it is absolutely necessary
- Principle 3 - Use the minimum necessary personal confidential data
- Principle 4 - Access to personal confidential data should be on a strict need-to-know basis
- Principle 5 - Everyone with access to personal confidential data should be aware of their responsibilities
- Principle 6 - Comply with the law
- Principle 7 - The duty to share information can be as important as the duty to protect patient confidentiality.

The Information Governance Policy has been updated in line with new legislation and will be approved at the Quality Safety and Risk Committee in September. The policy will be available on the website once approved via this [link](#) .