

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTHB_348_18

You asked:

Are you able to detail which of the discrepancies were because the machine was running a deficit i.e. there were fewer drugs in the cabinet than were expected?

Our response:

The Cwm Taf University Health Board Mediwell transaction data for the medicines concerned from 1.1.2017-24.8.2018 were:

TOTAL NUMBER OF TRANSACTIONS	34,093
TOTAL NUMBER OF DISCREPENCIES	624
TOTAL NUMBER OF NEGATIVE TRANSACTIONS	404

"Fewer drugs in the cabinet than were expected" can be identified by a negative transaction i.e. a reduction in the recorded stock holding.

However, we are aware of only two cases where the data from the machines allowed us to identify that medicines were actually missing and these are under investigation.

Please note, the majority of negative transactions may be caused by the way the machines are used and by user error. For example, duplicates where the initial error and the correction may have resulted from user error such as not needing the medication after requesting it, but also not recording its return, or using 'replenish' (on the cabinet this means return into stock) are user errors. Also, when taking an item out of the Mediwell to temporarily store in another place will again generate several errors. In addition to this, with liquid preparations, doses are sometimes given as 2.5ml but can only be booked out in whole mls so 2 or 3ml; therefore periodically the stock volume needs to be corrected.