

## **Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTHB\_360\_18**

### **You asked:**

I am hoping to gain some information in regards to non-surgical treatments for Facial Nerve Palsy patients throughout the UK. It has become apparent that though some patients are able to access physical rehabilitation facial therapies on the NHS others are having to apply for funding on an individual basis. There also appear to be disparities in whether patients are offered referral to a specialist facial therapist or a physical therapist who may not be trained in facial therapy.

- 1. Of those with facial nerve palsy who have not made a full or nearly full recovery at 12 weeks following onset, can you provide an estimate of the percentage of such patients who are referred for rehabilitation of persistent facial pain/discomfort and dysfunction?**
- 2. If a patient with facial nerve palsy is routinely referred to secondary care for rehabilitation therapy, which hospital(s) and department(s) do you refer to?**
- 3. If routinely referring a patient with facial nerve palsy for therapy, do you refer to a specialist facial therapist or to a local general physiotherapy team?**
  - a. Do you have specific centres that you refer to? If so please indicate which ones.**
  - b. What is the average cost of a course of physical rehabilitation therapy?**
- 4. Does the decision making panel for individual funding requests differentiate between referral to a specialist facial therapist (i.e. with a postgraduate qualification) and a general physiotherapist or speech and language therapist?**
- 5. Is specialist physiotherapy or facial therapy freely available to patients with facial nerve palsy or is it funded on an individual basis?**
  - a. If not routinely funded, what is the reason?**
- 6. How many individual funding requests have you received to access specialist physiotherapy or facial therapy in the last 12 months?**
  - a. How many were agreed?**
  - b. How many were declined?**
  - c. If declined, on what basis were they declined?**
- 7. Is Trophic Electrical Stimulation (TES) freely available to patients with facial nerve palsy or is it funded on an individual basis?**
  - a. If routinely available, where do you refer patients to for TES?**

- b. What evidence do you use to support routine funding of TES?**
- c. If routinely available, what is the average cost of a course of TES?**

**Our response:**

Cwm Taf University Health Board does not provide Neurological Services. Patients requiring treatment within this specialty are tertiary referred into Neurological Services of Neighbouring Health Boards.

The neighbouring health boards are:

- Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board
- Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
- Cardiff and Vale University Health Board