Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTHB_445_18

You asked:

1) Does your Health Board have a policy on the use of unlicensed medicines? Please Answer Yes or No. If yes, please provide a copy of the policy.

Not at present, however one is in draft form and is currently being consulted on.

2) Does your Health Board have a policy or protocol on obtaining informed consent from patients when an unlicensed medicine is used? Please answer Yes or No. If yes, please provide copies of all relevant documentation including copies of template informed consent materials used to consent patients where an unlicensed medicine is to be administered.

As above, but this will be included in new unlicensed medicines policy.

3) Please state which Board level job role(s) is (are) responsible for patient safety and consenting.

The responsibilities are shared between the Director of Nursing, Midwifery and Patient Services and the Medical Director.

4) Does your Health Board have, or intend to introduce, a policy that makes compounded bevacizumab routinely available to treat wet age-related macular degeneration? If yes please supply a copy of your policy.

We do not currently have a policy, and no decision has been made on an intention as yet.

5) Does your Health Board currently have a wholly NHS owned pharmacy with an aseptic unit for compounding/aliquotting medicines? Please answer Yes or NO. If yes, is this NHS pharmacy the same legal entity as that of your hospital Health Board?

Yes and Yes.

6) Does your Health Board currently host on its premises a privately owned pharmacy with an aseptic unit for compounding/aliquotting medicines? Please answer Yes or NO. If yes, please provide details of the third party provider of your pharmacy services. No.

7) Over the past two years has your Health Board, on more than one occasion, used compounded Avastin (bevacizumab) for ophthalmic use? Please answer Yes or No.

Yes, only for conditions where there is no licensed alternative.

If yes to Q5 or Q6:

8) Is the pharmacy referred to above in Q5 or Q 6 currently providing, or potentially able to provide, compounded Avastin (bevacizumab) for ophthalmic use? Please answer Yes or No

No.

9) Does the pharmacy referred to above in Q5 or Q6 currently hold an MHRA license for the manufacture of specials? Please answer Yes or No

Yes.

If yes to Q5 or Q6 but no to Q9:

10) When was the pharmacy referred to above in answer to Q5 or Q6 last inspected by the CQC?

As we are located in Wales, therefore we are not subject to CQC inspections.

If you answered no to questions Q5 or Q6 above, but yes to question Q7:

11) Please provide information regarding from whom your Health Board has or obtained/purchased compounded Avastin (bevacizumab). If you cannot provide the name of any commercial supplier, please provide as much information as possible.

Obtained from a licensed NHS manufacturing unit.