

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTHB_216_19

You asked:

For information regarding the diagnosis, treatment and management of heart valve disease (HVD) in Welsh Health Boards

Our response:

Heart valve disease (HVD) is a collective term referring to valve stenosis, valve obstruction or valve regurgitation. These conditions can affect the tricuspid, mitral, pulmonary or aortic valves. HVD is defined by the following ICD-11 codes: I05.0-I08.9; I34.0-I39.4.

All data requested is for the most recent data collection period – assumed to be April 2018 – March 2019

Please note that Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board was established on 1 April 2019. Therefore due to the timeframe requested, the information below relates to the previous Cwm Taf area and does not reflect the recent boundary change.

a) Please indicate the total numbers of patients diagnosed with heart valve disease:

I05	106	107	108	I34	I35	I36	I37	I39

I can confirm that we do not record a diagnosis at referral level, or record when a diagnosis is made. The only definitive recording of a diagnosis occurs at an inpatient episode level via the clinical coding process therefore, we are unable to provide the requested data.

However, in order to fulfil our obligation under Section 16 of the Act to provide advice and assistance, please see provided below the number of inpatient episodes for the codes provided:

I05	106	107	108	I34	I35	I36	I37	I39
5	0	**	11	12	53	0	0	0

Where the figures are less than 5, this has been denoted by **. The exact figures have been withheld due to the low numbers involved.

Where numbers are low we have considered that there is the potential for the individuals to be identified from the information provided, when considered with other information that may also be in the public domain. Also, responses under the Freedom of Information Act are made available to the public at large. The data is classed as personal data as defined under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 and its disclosure would be contrary to the data protection principles and constitute as unfair and unlawful processing in regard to Articles 5, 6, and 9 of GDPR. We are therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

b) Please indicate the total number of regular attender episodes recorded for patients who suffer with heart valve disease:

I05	106	107	108	I34	I35	I36	I37	I39

Please see response above.

c) Does the Health Board collect data on the number of patients diagnosed with heart valve disease who are:

- i. Admitted to hospital - (yes)**
- ii. Not admitted to hospital - (no)**
- iii. Referred for surgery - (no)**
- iv. Referred for alternative treatment or management (ie not surgery) - (no)**

If yes, please indicate total numbers in the boxes below:

i. Admitted to hospital	ii. Not admitted to hospital	iii. Referred for surgery	iv. Referred for alternative treatment
Please see response to question a.	N/A	N/A	N/A

d) Does the Health Board collect information on the reasons for not referring an HVD patient for surgery ? (yes/no)

No.

If 'yes', please state the most common reasons:

N/A

e) How many patients are currently waiting for an echocardiogram in your Health Board?

607.

f) What is the average wait for patients for an echocardiogram?

Within 8 weeks. Depending on urgency.

g) What is the average wait for an echocardiogram by patients subsequently diagnosed with heart valve disease?

Within 8 weeks. Depending on urgency.

h) For in-patients diagnosed with heart valve disease, what was the average time from diagnosis to first treatment?

I can confirm that the Health Board does not centrally record this information. The information you require would be recorded within an individual patient's health record as part of their ongoing care. To provide you with this information, would require a manual trawl and significantly exceed the 18 hours time and £450 cost limit set out within Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

- i) How many patients have been transferred to a CCG in England for:**
- i. Heart valve disease surgery, treatment or care:**
 - ii. Echocardiogram(s):**

These services are planned and secured by the [Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee](#) (WHSSC) on behalf of Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board.

For information relating to this service you may wish to contact WHSSC directly.

Their contact details can be found via the following link:

<http://www.whssc.wales.nhs.uk/foi>

- j) If possible, please list the names (with numbers of patient transferred) of the CCGs where patients are transferred for:**
- i. Heart valve disease surgery, treatment or care**
 - ii. Echocardiogram(s)**

Please see response above.

- k) What is the patient pathway followed for patients suspected of having heart valve disease?**

No specified pathway.