

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_156_20

You asked:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information about in-patient mental health care during coronavirus:

- 1. Within the in-patient mental health facilities that fall under your remit, how many patients have contracted coronavirus and/or are suspected to have contracted coronavirus? Of that number, how many have died?**

Please provide data over the broadest timeframe you can, within the cost limits of the Freedom of Information Act. Please also provide dates of patients' deaths. If that would identify them, please provide the week they died or, if that would still identify them, the month. I understand that most patients with severe coronavirus will have been transferred to acute units, if that helps with your search. Please also provide me with a rough figure of the total number of in-patients your facilities support.

Total Number of Inpatient Beds	How Many Inpatients Tested Positive for Covid 19	How Many Inpatients were suspected as having Covid 19 but test came back negative	How Many Patients Have Died From Covid 19	Inpatient Died Week Commencing
213	37	20	6	9/3/20
				16/3/20
				27/4/20
				27/4/20
				4/5/20
				11/5/20

- 2. Since 1 March, what policies/procedures have your in-patient mental health facilities put in place to deal with coronavirus? Please provide dates of enactment. Such policies/procedures might include (but are not limited to): asking providers to release patients early where possible; cancelling leave for in-patients; suspending advocacy services; stopping legal hearings; preventing patient readmissions; separating patients (whether through segregation or other forms). In situations where patients were released early, please, if possible, provide a total number. I understand that some policies may have been enacted and then retracted, therefore please provide dates for when they came into effect and were undone. Please also provide documentation, where possible, for the relevant policies/procedures.**

- Asking providers to release patients early where possible**

People would only be discharged from the care setting that they are in, following appropriate assessment and improvement in their assessed needs.

No in-patients have been discharged unless indicated as appropriate following senior clinical assessment.

- **cancelling leave for in-patients**

Leave has been actively managed as it is an essential part of a patient's recovery.

Those taking leave were encouraged to follow government advice in respect of COVID 19 restrictions. Those in-patients who were not able to take leave but who required ward leave to undertake exercise, were supported to do so if clinically safe and were escorted as required to ensure their safety.

Following government guidance more generally related to COVID 19 there was a reduction of day leave to 1 hour per day for exercise.

During the pandemic patients assessed as appropriate for home leave have received the usual community support.

Suspected and symptomatic patients are to isolate in their rooms following the government guidance on self-isolation and are tested immediately for COVID 19.

Those in patients who were not able to take leave but who required ward leave to undertake exercise, were supported to do so if clinically safe and were escorted as required to ensure their safety.

- **suspending advocacy services**

Since 23rd March 2020 patient advocacy services have been provided via telephone rather than face to face, posters and advocacy leaflets displayed on the wards give patients the telephone numbers for the services that they require. Senior Nurses and Ward Managers have ensured staff are also prompting patients to contact these numbers should they require advocacy support.

- **stopping legal hearings**

Mental Health Review Tribunals (MHRT) in CTMUHB were postponed on two occasions between 23rd March – 10th April 2020. Since 10th April 2020 all tribunals have been reinstated via telecommunication and the two postponed tribunals were sat.

17 Managers Hearings have been postponed since 16th March 2020 to the present date owing to issues with IT and managers being set up with equipment to enable Microsoft teams meetings. The IT issues have now been overcome and The Mental Health Act administrative team are making bookings for these cases.

- **preventing patient readmissions**

The Home Treatment Teams and Crisis Teams have continued the provision of support over a 24 hour period 7 days per week.

Single Point of Access and Community Mental health Teams maintained their services in order to provide appropriate support upon discharge and prevent readmissions to acute inpatient areas.

Remote meetings are being held such as care and treatment planning reviews.

All patients have continued to have access to their care coordinators and Consultant clinics have continued via telephone, video call or face to face meeting if required.

Assertive Outreach Teams have also continued to support patients and prevent readmissions.

- **separating patients (whether through segregation or other forms)**

Suspected and symptomatic patients are to isolate in their rooms, following the government guidance on self-isolation and are tested for COVID-19. Social distancing is being observed and patients and staff are socially distancing where possible. There have been some bedroom closures and allocation of COVID bedrooms.

Inpatient areas have dedicated Covid-19 positive spaces.

We have also developed some additional surge space on the Royal Glamorgan Hospital site in case the need arises for segregation that can't be managed in the existing space.

- **In situations where patients were released early, please, if possible, provide a total number.**

People would only be discharged from the care setting that they are in following appropriate assessment and improvement in their assessed needs therefore no patients would be discharged early.

- **Any other procedures/policies/protocols put in place due to COVID- 19 pandemic**

Further procedures/policies/protocols include appropriate signage, PPE, Uniform Policy (scrubs), no visitors in some areas, closure of bedrooms and allocated COVID bedrooms, checking of physical observations 3 times daily, weekly staff coronavirus meetings, DNACPR policy updated, increase to cleaning on the wards and formalisation of same, staff temperatures in some areas checked twice daily and COVID information files for staff to keep up to date with developments.

3. Since 1 March, what guidance have you received from NHS Wales, Public Health Wales, the Welsh Government and/or the UK's Department of Health and Social Care around how to manage coronavirus within in-patient mental health settings? Please provide the documentation you

received, be it emails or formal documents, and the dates when you received it.

10/03/2020	Donning and Doffing  Community testing Coronavirus training
19/03/2020	Coronavirus Bill (Mental Health Act) https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-21/coronavirus.html :
25/03/2020	Updated advice for Pregnant Staff - Advice regarding social distancing and self-isolation https://www.rcog.org.uk/globalassets/documents/guidelines/2020-03-21-covid19-pregnancy-guidance-2118.pdf Government
26/03/2020	 SOP Staff Testing Unit V5 (26th march)
26/03/2020	https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/members/devolved-nations/rcpsych-in-wales/guidance-for-clinicians/digital-covid-19-guidance-for-clinicians-in-wales
26/03/2020	https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/about-us/responding-to-covid-19/responding-to-covid-19-guidance-for-clinicians/community-and-inpatient-services-covid-19-guidance-for-clinicians
31/03/2020	Care of the deceased guidelines   Care of the deceased communit Care of the deceased procedure
31/03/2020	DNACPR Policy  TaubertBakerLtr to MDs DNACPR.docx
03/04/2020	PPE Guidance   COVID-19_easy_visual_guide_to_PPE_po 2020-04-03 - CMO Letter on updated P
06/04/2020	Choice Protocol https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-04/covid-19-hospital-discharge-service-requirements.pdf
10/04/2020	Community Hospital Service:   HDS STAFF BRIEFING - Abergarv ACM - Covid 19 - Community Hospital
14/04/2020	Oxygen Usage:  WG SES EFA 2020 002 - Oxygen Usage
14/04/2020	End of Life Care Principles:

	 Covid 19 End of Life Care Principles FINA
16/04/2020	PPE in cardiac arrest in acute settings:  2020-04-14 CMOCNO letter to N
16/04/2020	Hospital Managers' discharge powers under MH Act:  guidance for hospital managers -
20/04/2020	DNACPR  2020-04-17 CMO_CNO DNACPR
22/04/2020	Resources guidance:  NHS Wales COVID-19 Hospital C
22/04/2020	Principles for visiting:  Guiding Principles visiting covid LM V4.  PalliativeAndEndOf LifeVisitingForm V5
27/04/2020	Protocol for contacting on-call GP – community hospitals:  Protocol for Contacting On-call.ç
30/04/2020	Mortality surveillance form:  QRG_WCP Mortality Surveillance form_20
06/05/2020	BAME risk assessment  Urgent action for BAME (Black Anc
12/05/2020	H&S alert re hand sanitisers:  023 Staff Safety Alert - Using produc
13/05/2020	NMC Guidance on Nurse Prescribing during Covid-19  statement-on-presc ribing-annotations-
02/05/2020	 ESCALATION AND RESUSCITATION GUI

In addition to the resources sent to us there has been a vast amount of resources made available to the staff on the staff intranet site and the Public Health Wales website that the mental health service in CTMUHB have used as reference.