

You asked:

I would like to make a Freedom of Information Request regarding HER2 breast core biopsies within your histology department at Royal Glamorgan Hospital. Please could I request a response to the following questions:

1. What method or test is used to determine the amplification status of equivocal HER2 "2+" breast core biopsies? (e.g. Fluorescence In Situ Hybridisation)

Equivocal HER2 Immunohistochemistry (IHC) results are referred for Fluorescence in Situ Hybridisation (FISH).

2. Is this test performed in-house or externally? (If externally, please state where the test is performed.)

All HER2 IHC for breast are referred centrally to Histopathology at the University Hospital of Wales (UHW) at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, who provide this service to Cwm Taf Morgannwg residents. If there is an equivocal result, Histology at UHW would refer to the Medical Genetics at UHW for FISH.

3. What is the individual cost to perform one of these tests?

All HER2 testing for breast is funded centrally from Welsh Government (WG).

We receive no invoice or charge against CTMUHB for this test as they are processed centrally at UHW. We are not privy to what UHW charge WG per case for this service. The HER2 requestor for Cwm Taf Morgannwg residents is Velindre NHS Trust as they have the funding for the use of Herceptin. They recharge HER2 to commissioners via NICE/High cost drugs. For information relating to cost you would need to redirect this element of your request to Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and Velindre NHS Trust.

- Contact details for Cardiff and Vale University Health Board are as follows:
CAV_FOI.Requests@wales.nhs.uk
- Contact details for Velindre are shown in the following link:
<http://www.velindre-tr.wales.nhs.uk/freedom-of-information-contacts>

4. What is the average waiting time (in days) for an exact HER2 score (HER2:CEP17 ratio) to be received by a consultant for a breast core biopsy once it has been proven to be equivocal "2+"? (If an exact time is not available, please could you provide an approximation?)

This information would be held by Cardiff and Vale University Health Board. Please see contact details provided in our response to questions 3.

5. What is the range in waiting times (in days) for an exact HER2 score (HER2:CEP17 ratio) to be received by a consultant for a breast core biopsy once it has been proven to be equivocal "2+"? (If an exact time is not available, please could you provide an approximation?)

Please see response to question 4.

6. How many breast core biopsies were tested for their HER2 amplification status in 2019? Of these, how many were equivocal "2+" cases that needed an additional test to calculate the exact score (HER2:CEP17 ratio)?

In 2019 there were 183 breast cores referred for HER2 status. Part 2 of this question we do not centrally record, but by trawling the reports we can confirm that there were 67 cases.