

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_282_21

You asked:

I would like to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

I'd like to find out the exact length of time people are likely to wait if they join an NHS Wales waiting list now for specific operations/procedures.

I appreciate there are already referral to treatment times (RTT) figures for certain so-called 'treatment functions' (trauma and orthopaedics, cardiology, urology etc.), but I'd like to get down to the more specific details (and by health board).

Therefore, I'd like to find out (as of June 30):

1. The number of patients on the NHS waiting list in your health board for each of the following procedures:

1. Hip replacement
2. Knee replacement
3. Cataract surgery
4. Routine wait for respiratory clinics
5. Outpatient waits for women with pelvic pain
6. Prolapse surgery
7. Endoscopy in gastroenterology services
8. Routine physiotherapy
9. CAMHS - child and adolescent mental health services

2. The estimated time it would take someone joining the list in your health board on June 30 to receive their procedure in each of the following:

1. Hip replacement
2. Knee replacement
3. Cataract surgery
4. Routine wait for respiratory clinics
5. Outpatient waits for women with pelvic pain
6. Prolapse surgery
7. Endoscopy in gastroenterology services
8. Routine physiotherapy
9. Waits for CAMHS - child and adolescent mental health services

Our response:

In regard to this request the only mandated field for waiting times (RTT) submissions is the specialty field. Whilst we record the procedure for stage 4 waits this is for internal use and is not a mandatory/validated field.

Please see information shown in the table below:

Patients Waiting @ 30th June 2021					
Specialty	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Total
Trauma & Orthopaedic	6443	794	412	5191	12840
Ophthalmology	8862	2	97	1568	10529
Respiratory Medicine	1095	86	128	5	1314
Gynaecology	5463	541	543	1610	8157
Endoscopy:					4890
<i>Bronchoscopy</i>	*	*	*	*	5
<i>Colonoscopy</i>	*	*	*	*	999
<i>Cystoscopy</i>	*	*	*	*	586
<i>Flexible Sigmoidoscopy</i>	*	*	*	*	1351
<i>Gastrosocopy</i>	*	*	*	*	1949
Physiotherapy	*	*	*	*	1334
Child & Adolescent Psychiatry	*	*	*	*	197

Summary of Referral to Treatment (RTT stages):

1: Awaiting 1st Appointment
2: Awaiting Test Result
3: Awaiting Follow Up Appointment
4: Awaiting Admission/Therapy

The specialties with stages identified are part of the RTT return.

Those without are either part of the diagnostic and therapy (D&T) or PP01w submissions (for specialties not included in the RTT return).

Data supplied at census date 30th June 2021

Regarding the second part of the request (estimated time) we are not able to predict future waits and provide the length of wait for someone referred now until treatment. Even if we could, each patient pathway varies and not all patients would wait the same time for treatment due to numerous clinical factors.