

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_158_22

You asked:

Please note the following response represent the Merthyr Cynon and Taff Ely Integrated Locality Group (ILG) areas of the Health Board. The Bridgend area Pulmonary Rehabilitation (PR) service is currently provided by the Swansea Bay University Health Board (SB UHB) through a Service Level Agreement. For further information relating to the Bridgend area, please contact SB UHB directly at the following address: FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk

1) Who commissions the Pulmonary Rehab services your patients have access to and who provides these services?

The Pulmonary Rehabilitation (PR) service in the Taff Ely (TE) and Merthyr Cynon (MC) ILG are provided by Therapies Directorate, with input from Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy. In the past respiratory colleagues from nursing and medicine have inputted in the educational aspect of the programme. Due to issues with staffing, a traditional PR model is not provided within the TE & MC ILG's at present. A Physiotherapy led exercise class has replaced the traditional PR model in the short term.

2) When did the services first commence?

Cwm Taf University Health Board was established on October 2009. The PR service was initially started within predecessor organisations Pontypridd and Rhondda NHS Trust (covering Rhondda, Cynon and Taf Ely) in 2008 and North Glamorgan NHS Trust (covering Merthyr) started their PR service in 2003.

3) How many patients have been referred to the service in the last 12 months and 24 months of data held?

Data from Qlik Sense indicates the referrals for PR in the MC and TE ILG are as follows:

- April 2021-April 2022: 232 patients referred
- April 2020- April 2021: 51 patients referred

4) Of these being referred how many have actually attended the service in these same time periods?

- April 2021-April 2022: 197 attended
- April 2020- April 2021: 18 attended

5) How long does the average patient stay within the services?

This is dependent on the patient. Some patients will choose to have 1-2 sessions, while others are able to attend an exercise class and will have up to 6-8 sessions of input over 6-8 weeks.

6) What is the current waiting list size for the service?

There are 15 patients currently waiting for PR in the MC and TE ILG areas of the Health board.

7) What is the current remaining contract durations for these services?

The service within the Merthyr Cynon and Taff Ely ILG's is not limited by a contract.

8) Has the HB ever commissioned Digital Respiratory Services?

The HB has not commissioned any direct digital respiratory services. The Health Board is encouraging the use of the COPDhub app, which is supported by Welsh Government. Patients were also offered the opportunity to have virtual appointments with clinicians.

Anecdotally physiotherapy clinicians state the uptake in digital technology in the pulmonary rehabilitation group is low.