

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_80_22

You asked:

I am writing in relation to the Covid-19 vaccination programme carried out across Wales.

You have a responsibility to ensure all NHS Wales staff, GP's and vaccinators under your area of authority were/are aware of their legal obligation to obtain fully **Informed Consent** from patients before administering Covid-19 vaccinations.

Under Freedom of information, please can you supply the following:

1. What advice to date have you given to all NHS Wales staff, GP practices and vaccinators under your area of authority, in relation to obtaining fully Informed Consent from patients before administering Covid-19 vaccines?

As part of the training all staff are advised verbally about the importance of gaining consent prior to vaccination. This is then reiterated as part of the written competencies. For patients who have cognitive impairment or unable to give consent, written consent is given by the Next of Kin.

For children over the age of 14yrs the Gillick principles are applied for consent. For those under the age of 14yrs parental or guardian consent is gained by with accompanying the child or confirming with the parent verbally over the telephone. Where there are looked after children a written consent form the legal guardian is signed and given to the vaccinator. Scanned consents are sent to the safeguarding team and saved on the child's notes.

Prior to vaccinating and gaining consent vaccinators read through a clinical script with the patient discussing the potential side effects of the vaccine and time is allowed for any questions to be discussed. There is access to the Public Health Wales Green book for further information and access to a specialist immunisation expert for further advice. Where there has been any queries or unanswered questions they are encouraged to ask individuals to return at a later date when further information can be gathered in relation to their concerns. For children the information has been sent in writing to the parents prior to the appointment and access to a one to one conversation with the specialised immunisation team is in place to aid with any questions or queries to aid with ensuring a full informed consent is given.

2. Were patients routinely informed of the individual risk that Covid-19 posed to them, for their particular age group?

Yes. There is a written script that staff go through with patients prior to administering the vaccination so they can make an informed consent. There are also screening questions that need to be updated on the Welsh Immunisation System (WIS) when the vaccinator records the vaccine as being given. This is covered in training and competences, all staff are given access to the Green book for more detailed information. Written information is also given to all patients when they book in prior to the

receiving the vaccination for them to read through prior to consenting to the vaccine.

3. Were patients routinely informed that these vaccines are still part of an ongoing trial until 2023?

No.

4. Were patients routinely informed that these vaccines were authorised for emergency use only?

No.

5. Were patients routinely informed that these mRNA vaccines have never before been used on human beings?

No.

6. Were patients routinely informed that the vaccine manufacturers currently all have immunity from liability for any adverse events and death?

No.

7. Were patients routinely informed there is no medium to long term safety data for these vaccines?

All patients are given written information prior to consenting to their vaccine in writing with this information.

8. Were patients routinely informed it is not known how these vaccines affect fertility or the reproductive system, especially in younger people?

No.

9. Were patients routinely informed of the constituent components / ingredients of the vaccines they received?

All patients are given written information prior to consenting to their vaccine in writing with this information.

10. Were patients routinely informed they can still catch and spread Covid-19 after vaccination?

Yes. Patients are encouraged to continue to follow the Government isolation and testing instructions.

11. Were patients routinely made aware of the Yellow Card data for these vaccines, which shows a disturbingly high number of serious injuries and deaths compared to all other vaccines combined over the last 30 years?

All patients are given written information prior to consenting to their vaccine in writing with this information regarding the yellow card database, which includes when to inform the service and why it is used .

12.Exactly what other Informed Consent if any was given/obtained, relating to the risks and benefits of these vaccines?

All patients/ carers are given written information prior to consenting to their vaccine in writing with this information.