

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_399_22

You asked:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act regarding use of remote monitoring and virtual wards.

*Virtual wards allow patients to be treated in their own homes rather than in hospital. In a virtual ward, support can include remote monitoring using apps, technology platforms, wearables and medical devices and face to face care from multi-disciplinary teams based in the community.

1. Does your organisation use remote monitoring tools to help patients to manage their health and care at home?

Remote monitoring is not currently used within the community setting but this is being explored as part of the Health Board's redesign of community services.

2. Has your organisation extended the use of remote monitoring to utilise solutions to proactively manage the next steps of care for patients being treated in the home such as using a task management system/virtual ward*?

Not currently but this is being explored as part of the Health Boards redesign of community services.

3. If yes, does the organisation use any suppliers to support the process of providing virtual wards?

a. Please state the name of the supplier/supplier's.

b. Please provide the annual cost for the above supplier contract for the financial year 20/21 to 21/22 (April 2021- March 2022)

N/A.

4. Does the organisation have a dedicated in-house virtual ward team?

Yes.

a. If yes, is this made up of existing resource or additional capacity?

Additional capacity using Transformation Funding.

5. Could you please provide the name and job title of the person who is responsible for the management of virtual wards?

The virtual wards are GP cluster led.

6. Please complete the table for each of the specialities listed:

Speciality	What specialties are Virtual Wards currently implemented in? (tick for yes)	If yes, How many virtual "beds" are currently operating in total and in each speciality?	Please state the number of beds the organisation has in total and for each speciality?
Other- Please state which	GP Practices using the Community Health & Wellbeing Teams	Can vary at a point in time	Can vary at a point in time

In Merthyr, Cynon, Taff Ely and Rhondda area the Health Board uses a Virtual Ward model within the Community with each GP Cluster supported by a multi-disciplinary team consisting of third Sector, Social Services, Therapies, Pharmacy Mental Health and Advanced Care Planning Nurses. Each team holds a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) meeting weekly to discuss the patients care and support needs after assessment of the patient in their own homes. The aim of the team is to prevent hospital admission by enabling patients to stay in their own homes. Whilst at present no technology is used to monitor patients, the future strategic are to include these tools as part of monitoring processes.