

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_608_23

Please find the response from Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board set out below, noting the following:

- Date Period : 01/01/2022 – 30/11/2023
- Where data is reliant on clinical coding, this traditionally has a completion timeline of three months in arrears – therefore the 2023 data will be incomplete.
- Patient could still be admitted
- Patient could be admitted more than once
- Patient may belong to another University Health Board area.

You asked:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to ask the following information regarding drug overdoses please, and would like the information broken down by hospital site. If this is not possible, please state that the data is at health board level.

1) How many admissions related to drug overdose for year 2022?

459.

2) How many admissions related to drug overdose from January to November 2023?

386.

3) What are the most common drug overdose cases admitted in your hospital?

Please see table below:

Poisoning: 4-Aminophenol derivatives
Poisoning: Other and unspecified drugs, medicaments and biological substances
Poisoning: Other opioids
Poisoning: Benzodiazepines
Poisoning: Other and unspecified antidepressants
Poisoning: Other and unspecified antipsychotics and neuroleptics
Poisoning: Tricyclic and tetracyclic antidepressants
Poisoning: Other nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs [NSAID]
Poisoning: Insulin and oral hypoglycaemic [antidiabetic] drugs
Poisoning: Heroin

4) How many patients admitted for drug overdose received medical treatment at a ward level 2022?

We can confirm that the Health Board does not centrally record this information. The information you require would be recorded within an individual patient's health record as part of their ongoing care. To provide you with this information, would require a manual trawl and significantly

exceed the 18 hours time and £450 cost limit set out within Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

5) How many patients admitted for drug overdose received medical treatment at a ward level Jan - Nov 2023?

Please see response to question 4.

6) How many patients admitted for drug overdose required admission to the intensive care unit for advanced medical intervention such as mechanical ventilation and continuous renal replacement therapy in 2022?

Admitted to Intensive Care - 54.

7) How many patients admitted for drug overdose required admission to the intensive care unit for advanced medical intervention such as mechanical ventilation and continuous renal replacement therapy in January - November 2023?

Admitted to Intensive Care – 66

8) What is the average length of stay for those patients admitted for drug overdose in your intensive/critical care unit?

Average intensive care stay – 2 days

Average full spell with an intensive care ward stay – 32 days

9) What is the total number of deaths related to drug overdose in your hospital in 2022?

5.

10) What is the total number of deaths related to drug overdose in your hospital Jan-Nov 2023?

Where the figures are less than 5, the exact figures have been withheld due to the low numbers involved.

This being the case it is considered that such information should be withheld under Section 41 which sets out an exemption from the right to know where the information requested was provided to the public authority in confidence. The component which is applicable relates to the disclosure of the information would give rise to an actionable breach of confidence. In other words, if the Health Board disclosed the information being sought this could lead to their identification which would be unfair and inappropriate.

A duty of confidentiality does continue after the death of an individual to whom that duty is owed. Where there is a legally enforceable duty of

confidentiality owed to a living individual, after death it can be enforced by the deceased's personal representative.