

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_250_23

You asked:

1. Does the Health Board have a Long COVID service that GPs can refer patients to?

Yes - Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (CTMUHB) has a Long COVID Rehabilitation Service (LCRS) that GPs can refer into.

The CTMUHB LCRS provides comprehensive, multi-disciplinary support, advice and education for those with Post COVID-19 Syndrome. The service provides Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, and Psychological support, and is also supported by a GP with special interest.

The Service will deliver a personalised rehabilitation programme for individuals recovering from COVID with symptoms including: Fatigue; Breathlessness; Cough; Pain; Muscle/joint problems; Inability to be active; Cognitive/communication changes; Memory problems/"Brain Fog" Concentration difficulties; Anxiety/Depression/Mood changes; Difficulty sleeping; Loss of taste and/or smell. The service promotes self-management; provides care, advice, support and education; produces an individualised Post COVID syndrome rehab programme via multiple disciplines; and sign-posts to appropriate services and self-management support.

2. How many referrals have been made to that service by GPs since March 2020?

Data collection commenced in Sept 2021.

There have been 853 GP referrals since Sept 2021. Prior to this from March 2020 until September 2021, 740 referrals were received but we are unable to verify the referral source for referrals received during this time period.

3. What is the average time in weeks from referral to first appointment?

The waiting time between referral and first appointment is 14 days. The average referral to treatment time over the last 6 months is 33 days.

4. How many patients have had an appointment since the start of the service?

From Sept 2021 to present, 654 patients have had an appointment with the LCRS. Data is not available prior to this time.

5. How many patients who have been referred are waiting for their first appointment?

15.

6. After referral by the GP, does the Health Board carry out an assessment of the patient prior to acceptance by the service?

Yes.

7. If so, what percentage of such assessments lead on to the Long Covid patient being accepted by the service?

Based on data collected since Sept 2021, 76.7% of assessments lead to the patient being accepted by the service.

Data accurate as of 22/06/2023