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University Health Board



## Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB\_218\_24

### You asked:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, we would like to request the answers to the below questions, in relation to your Ophthalmology services at the hospital trusts.

### WET-AMD INJECTIONS:

**1. What is the maximum number of wet-AMD injections you can facilitate in a week?**

Current capacity in the injection clinic is approximately 650-700 injections per month. The injection clinic treats patients with multiple pathologies, not just wet AMD.

**2. A) Do you run out-of-hours lists to keep up with demand for wet-AMD injections? Additional injection clinics are run on weekends when required to make up for short-term capacity shortfalls.**

We run Saturday clinics as and when the need arises (during periods where we have a cluster of bank holidays which take away weekly clinic activity).

**B) If you are running additional lists, how are these lists being accommodated?**

During weekends.

**C) If you are running additional lists, are you utilising any alternative clinical space?**

No.

**3. A) What is the current waiting time for patients to secure an appointment for Wet-AMD injections?**

For new patients with suspected wet AMD, the time from referral to treatment is approx. 2 weeks.

For follow-up patients requiring intravitreal injection for wet AMD, patients are given the date for follow-up appointment for their next injection before they leave the department.

**B) What was the wait time at the same point in time in 2023?**

For new patients in 2023 the time from referral to treatment was 2 weeks (*all patients are booked within 2 weeks if we are unable to accommodate*

*in the allocated clinic slots we add the new patients into the clinics as extra or convert unused follow ups into new appointments).*

**4. A) How many patients are currently waiting for an appointment at a wet-AMD clinic?**

Follow-up patients are given a date for their follow-up appointment before leaving the department. At present, there are we have 6 patients we have been unable appoint due to then having health issues, we contact these patients on a regular basis for update with a view to booking them in as soon as possible.

**B) What was the wait time at the same point in time in 2023?**

2 weeks or a maximum of 3 in 2023.

**5. A) Do you have a contingency plan to increase capacity should this be required?**

Yes. For short-term shortfalls in capacity, additional weekend clinics are used to provide extra capacity. All patients should receive their injection <7 days from the intended injection interval. Where this cannot be done, that shortfall can be anticipated 4 weeks in advance and extra clinics organised.

**B) If so, what is your contingency plan for wet-AMD injections?**

Same as (a) above.

**GENERAL CAPACITY:**

**6. Are you outsourcing any ophthalmology clinical work to external parties or utilising insourcing partners? If so, what?**

Yes currently outsourcing Cataracts and Glaucoma patients.

**7. What condition takes up the majority of your clinical slots?**

AMD - Across the injection service, approximately two-thirds of patients have wet AMD, with the remaining third split between diabetic macular oedema and retinal vein occlusions.

Within general clinics, we do not routinely collect data on specific pathologies.

**8. Would you consider a mobile unit as an option to expand services and capacity?**

This is not something we are currently considering.

**9. What is the name and contact details of the Ophthalmology Service Lead?**

Kevin Gallagher Clinical Director for Ophthalmology

Please note - Personal Information is held by Data Controllers on the basis of the exercise of functions identified in the formal notification to the Information Commissioner. Any processing of that personal information outside of those functions may be unlawful. Furthermore the General Data Protection regulation and Data Protection Act 2018 makes provision for a data subject to exercise a right to prevent processing in particular circumstances. The data subject shall have the right to object, on grounds relating to his or her particular situation, at any time to processing of personal data concerning him or her which is based on point (e) or (f) of Article 6(1), including profiling based on those provisions where personal data are processed for direct marketing purposes.

We can confirm that the individual captured by this request have stated that they do not wish their personal data to be used for direct marketing purposes.