

## Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB\_110\_24

### You asked:

To garner a comprehensive understanding of the practices and data surrounding patients with cardiac devices, we kindly request the following information:

|     |                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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| Q1  | How many patients pass through your morgue each year?                                                                              | Over our three acute sites Prince Charles, Princess of Wales and Royal Glamorgan Hospitals - approximately 3,400. This figure includes deaths from a community setting.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Q2  | Approximately what proportion of these have a cardiac implantable device in situ? (PPM, ICD, ILR)                                  | We can confirm that the Health Board does not centrally record this information. To obtain this information would involve a manual trawl and search of individual records, which we have estimated would significantly exceed the 18 hours limit (£450 cost limit) set out in Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act. Under the Act we are not obliged to spend in excess of 18 hours in any sixty day period locating, retrieving and identifying information in order to deal with a request for information and therefore we are withholding this information at this time. |
| Q3  | Does the hospital morgue also take deaths from the community, or is it for inpatients only?                                        | Yes CTMUHB acute mortuaries accept deceased from hospital and community                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Q4  | Is there a cardiac physiology department on site at your hospital?                                                                 | YES<br><br>All acute sites have a cardiac physiology department.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Q5  | If a patient has a cardiac device in situ, is it routine practice for a device check to be undertaken after death?                 | NO<br><br>Since Covid clinical teams are not required to come to the mortuary and complete a device check                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Q6a | If yes, is the information regarding rhythm/therapies at the time of death routinely added to the patient's notes/hospital record? | NO                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Q6b | If yes, is the information regarding rhythm/therapies at the time of death routinely                                               | NO                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

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|    | passed on to the clinical team?                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Q7 | If no and this is not routine practice, are there ever exceptions to this, i.e., occasions where a post-death device check is requested by the clinical team? | <p>YES</p> <p>Where cremation is chosen and devices have not been identified. Where ICD have not been deactivated</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Q8 | If yes, please elaborate (for example, how often or under what circumstances this occurs).                                                                    | <p>The mortuary will be unaware on entry if a pacemaker or ICD is present. The doctor when completing the cremation paper may fail to mention or not be aware that an ICD is active. On occasion, funeral directors ring to clarify the activity of such devices before the deceased is cremated. This is not a regular occurrence but happens occasionally. The Health Board does not hold the notes of deceased who have died in the community.</p> |

We welcome any additional information or comments that might help in our investigation.