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WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Cwm Taf Morgannwg
University Health Board



Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_132_24

You asked:

Can you provide the following information please?

1. Number of patients being referred for ear wax removal for the following years.

2019
2020
2021
2022

Please see information provided in the table below. Noting the following:
When a referral is added on to the system for Ear wax removal, all referrals are booked onto the system under ENT, they don't contain the specific detail of ear wax removal. Therefore, we have pulled all the patients that were booked into an Ear Wax clinic or any patient that had a coded procedure for ear wax removal. However, we can't guarantee this has captured all referrals. If the case notes are still awaiting coding and the patient was not booked into an Ear Wax Clinics that referral will not be included. Also, any patient that had not been allocated an appointment will not be included. A patient can also have more than one referral for the same complaint.

Referrals for ear wax removal	
Year	Count
2019	3085
2020	2137
2021	3094
2022	4363
Total	12679

2. Number of patients admitted to accident and emergency with the following conditions for all years from 2019 - 2023

- 1. Ear infections**
- 2. Ear injuries**
- 3. Ear problem**
- 4. Ear ache**
- 5. Ear accidents (i.e. Foreign body in ear)**

Please see information provided in the table below. Noting the following:
Please be aware all of the following searches are contained with a free test field and we cannot guarantee the accuracy or the completeness of the search.

Ear injuries - The free text field has been searched for the words 'Ear Inj%'. These words can appear anywhere in the field. If this has been typed in with a combination of other complaints they will not appear in the results. Example Ear and Head Injury. You cannot search the field for the word Ear and then look for the word injury because complaints can have several elements, such as Head Injury with swollen ear.

Ear problem - The free test field has been searched for the words 'Ear Prob%'. As above if this complaint was combined with other complaints they will not appear in the results.

Ear ache - The free test field has been searched for the words 'Earache' or 'Ear Ache'.

Ear accidents (i.e. Foreign body in ear) - The free test field has been searched for the words 'FB' or 'F/B' or 'Foreign Body' and 'Ear%'

Year	Ear Infections	Ear Injuries	Ear Problem	Ear Ache	Ear accidents(i.e. Foreign body in ear)
2019	73	55	92	81	413
2020	48	28	79	44	416
2021	54	48	93	69	353
2022	73	43	43	72	415

3. Where can I obtain data for the period 2010 to 2018 covering the same equivalent board or deanery?

Any information requests (prior to April 1 2019) relating to the previous Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board area (Princess of Wales Hospital) would need to be redirected to FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk (Swansea Bay University Health Board).

With regards to the Cwm Taf area data (2010 – 2018) - We have reviewed and can confirm that the Health Board is unable to provide you with the requested data. It is estimated that the cost of answering this element of your request would exceed the appropriate costs limit under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This is currently £450.

In order to provide you with the data requested for the time period, the Health Board would have to undertake a manual trawl of all Accident and Emergency (A&E) patient records, to identify the information to fulfil this part of your request, as the Welsh Patient Administration System (WPAS) has not produced any results.

4. Did the previous deanery contract GPs to provide ear wax removal?

The Health Board has never contracted GPs to provide ear wax removal as this service does not form part of their GMS contract.