



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Cwm Taf Morgannwg
University Health Board



Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_88_25

You asked:

I am sending this request under the Freedom of Information Act to ask for the following information.

1. In the following calendar years, how many referrals of any form were made to the Health Board for Fast-Track Continuing Healthcare?

- a. 2022**
- b. 2023**
- c. 2024**

Our systems are unable to filter fast tracks to provide these totals. However, a manual collection, which started in April 2024, for the financial year to current date has a total of 268.

2. How many of the referrals in question 1 were rejected as inappropriate by the Health Board? Please provide figures for the following calendar years:

- a. 2022**
- b. 2023**
- c. 2024**

Zero.

3. Please explain, in general terms, the main reasons for which referrals were deemed inappropriate.

Not applicable.

4. How many of the referrals in question 1 were withdrawn/closed by a) The referrer, or b) The patient/their family. Please provide figures for the following calendar years:

- a. 2022**
- b. 2023**
- c. 2024**

Not recorded.

5. How many of the referrals in question 1 were withdrawn/closed as a result of the patient dying before any funding was put in place? Please provide figures for the following calendar years:

- a. 2022**

- b. 2023**
- c. 2024**

This information is not recorded, although occasionally patients are either admitted or remain in hospital for End-of-Life Care, rather than nursed in community, depending on patients wishes and clinical presentation.

6. In the following calendar years, how many referrals were accepted for Fast-Track Continuing Healthcare?

- a. 2022**
- b. 2023**
- c. 2024**

See question 1.

7. In the following calendar years, what was the average timeframe - for Fast-Track CHC referrals that were accepted - between receipt of the completed Fast Track Pathway Tool and the care package being commissioned. Please provide the answer in hours where possible, or otherwise in days.

- a. 2022**
- b. 2023**
- c. 2024**

Fast track packages are provided by our core community services in the majority of cases, with a small number of packages being provided in a care home setting. Fast track referrals are submitted with an identified and secured package of care, which is usually within 48 hours' time period.

If data for calendar years cannot be provided, please instead give the average timeframe for the most relevant period for which data can be compiled (for example, December 2022, December 2023, and December 2024).

8. In the following calendar years, what was the average timeframe - for Fast-Track CHC referrals that were accepted - between receipt of the completed Fast Track Pathway Tool and the funding for the care package being put in place. Please provide the answer days.

- a. 2022**
- b. 2023**
- c. 2024**

As question 7, Fast tracks are predominantly provided by core services within 24/48 period.

If data for calendar years cannot be provided, please instead give the average timeframe for the most relevant period for which data can be compiled (for example, December 2022, December 2023, and December 2024).

- 9. Please can you explain the decision-making process for Fast-Track Continuing Healthcare referrals, giving details of all criteria involved in the process between receiving the referral and commissioning support?**

Fast track documentation is completed by an NHS member of staff, using a standard template. Virtual approval is agreed within 24 hours.

As part of this, please could you explain:

- 10. The criteria you use for who can make a Fast-Track CHC referral (for example, are non-NHS medical professionals, care home nurses and/or GPs able to do this?)**

NHS Staff only, predominantly a registered Nurse.

- 11. Whether Fast-Track Continuing Healthcare referrals made by an appropriate clinician are subject to further checks by professionals working for, or on behalf of, the Health Board before being granted? Please explain this process if so.**

Yes, assessments are quality assured to ensure appropriate governance arrangements and care plans are in place for use by core services and/or care providers.

- 12. Whether a patient referred by an appropriate clinician is required to meet further criteria, such as having a primary health need, in order to qualify for Fast-Track support?**

The Fast-track documentation lends itself to provide clear identification of the patient's condition and end of life care, to benefit from a fast track package of care.