

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_304_21

You asked:

Please may you provide me with:

1. How many people have died in your hospitals with only Covid-19 being the reason for death on the certificate? Basically; the number of people who died only due to Covid-19. I see the number published on line but these are deaths within a 28-day period of a positive Covid test, they could have died of other causes. I just want to know the exact figure from 1st Jan 2020 to 20th December 2020 the people who have died of Covid-19 and nothing else please.

For the date period 01/01/2020 – 20/12/2020, 61 patients were admitted to a Cwm Taf Morgannwg (CTM) hospital and died in hospital without comorbidities.

Please note, the source of the data used for this response is the Office of National Statistics (ONS) data Registered Deaths, supplied to us via NHS Wales Informatics Service (NWIS). As such, there will be a time lag on the reporting of deaths, as ONS data awaits the official clinical determination of death.

This is the only source of data that we have to be able to determine whether somebody died directly of Covid-19 without any co-morbidities (the figures most commonly cited in the media are the deaths within 28 days of a positive pathology test which is a different metric taken from the Welsh Patient Administrative System (WPAS) /Office of National Statistics (ONS) / Master Patient Index (MPI) systems and combined with Welsh Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) data. MPI is the Master Patient Index. It is a national system used to help multiple national and local systems update their demographics with changes from other systems. (E.g. if a death is recorded in one Health Board's WPAS system then another can be automatically updated with that change). Please note that our WPAS doesn't accept these changes automatically like some other Health Boards.

2. The total number of Covid-19 deaths in your hospitals between 1st Jan 2020 and December 20th 2020.

For the date period 01/01/2020 – 20/12/2020, 787 patients were admitted to a CTM hospital and died in hospital.

Please note, the source of the data used for this response is the Office of National Statistics (ONS) data Registered Deaths, supplied to us via NHS Wales Informatics Service (NWIS). As such, there will be a time lag on the reporting of deaths, as ONS data awaits the official clinical determination of death.

3. The percentage and number of people with 'underlying health conditions' in the overall number of deaths.

92% - 726.

4. Can you explain the number and percentage split of which tests were used to diagnose a positive Covid-19 result for the total number of deaths between 1 Jan 2020 and December 20^o 2020; e.g. PCR 10% LFT 80% and Antibody/serology 10%.

The Health Board does not centrally capture this information. To provide you with this information, would require a manual trawl and significantly exceed the 18 hours time and £450 cost limit set out within Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.