



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

FOI request into the diagnosis, treatment and management of heart valve disease (HVD)  
in Welsh Health Boards

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**Health Board: Hywel Dda University Health Board**

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Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we write to request the following information:

*Heart valve disease (HVD) is a collective term referring to valve stenosis, valve obstruction or valve regurgitation. These conditions can affect the tricuspid, mitral, pulmonary or aortic valves. HVD is defined by the following ICD-11 codes: I05.0-I08.9; I34.0-I39.4.*

*All data requested is for the most recent data collection period - assumed to be April 2018 - March 2019*

a) Please indicate the total numbers of patients diagnosed with heart valve disease:

I05	I06	I07	I08	I34	I35	I36	I37	I39
11	0	*	7	426	0	0	0	0

Where the figures in the table have been replaced with an asterisk (\*), the UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of patients due to the low numbers of cases (5 and under), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. The UHB is therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This information is protected by the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018 / General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2016, as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles 6 and 9 of the GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the Data Protection Act 2018 / General Data Protection Regulations 2016 defines personal data as data which relates to a living individual who can be identified solely from that data or from that data and other information which is in the possession of the data controller.

- b) Please indicate the total number of regular attender episodes recorded for patients who suffer with heart valve disease:

I05	I06	I07	I08	I34	I35	I36	I37	I39
0	0	0	0	21	0	0	0	0

- c) Does the Health Board collect data on the number of patients diagnosed with heart valve disease who are:

- i. Admitted to hospital (yes/no)
- ii. Not admitted to hospital (yes/no)
- iii. Referred for surgery (yes/no)
- iv. Referred for alternative treatment or management (ie not surgery) (yes/no)

If yes, please indicate total numbers in the boxes below:

i. Admitted to hospital	ii. Not admitted to hospital	iii. Referred for surgery	iv. Referred for alternative treatment
Section 12	Section 12	Section 12	Section 12

- d) Does the Health Board collect information on the reasons for not referring an HVD patient for surgery ? (yes/no)

If 'yes', please state the most common reasons:

Insert text: Section 12

- e) How many patients are currently waiting for an echocardiogram in your Health Board?

There are currently 1443 patients awaiting an echocardiogram.

- f) What is the average wait for patients for an echocardiogram?

The current wait list is 7 weeks.

- g) What is the average wait for an echocardiogram by patients subsequently diagnosed with heart valve disease?

Section 12.

- h) For in-patients diagnosed with heart valve disease, what was the average time from diagnosis to first treatment?

Section 12.

- i) How many patients have been transferred to a CCG in England for:
- i. Heart valve disease surgery, treatment or care:
  - ii. Echocardiogram(s):

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) has not referred any patients to CCG's in England for the above treatments.

- j) If possible, please list the names (with numbers of patient transferred) of the CCGs where patients are transferred for:
- i. Heart valve disease surgery, treatment or care
  - ii. Echocardiogram(s)

Please see response to previous question.

- k) What is the patient pathway followed for patients suspected of having heart valve disease?

The UHB does not have a specific pathway for patients suspected of having heart valve disease. However, these patients would firstly be referred for an echocardiogram. Following this, upon diagnosis this patients would be treated in line with the European Society of Cardiology's Valvular Heart Disease (Management of) Guidelines. The course of treatment and pathway followed would be decided based on the severity and nature of the valve disease and the patient's symptoms.