

Reference:	FOI.17575.25
Subject:	Alzheimer's Disease
Date of Request:	16 June 2025

Your request and our response

I would be grateful if you could answer the questions below for all relevant activity within the Health Board.

1. I would be grateful if you could send the Health Board's most recent planning document(s) for the diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's Disease including implementation of lumbar punctures (CSF) and Blood-based Biomarker testing. Please include planning documents that cover the entire Health Board and specific department plans, such as neurology, psychiatry, care of the elderly, pathology or memory clinic teams.

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) regrets to inform you that it does not hold the requested information. The UHB has not produced any planning documents for the treatment and diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease which includes the implementation of lumbar punctures and Blood-based Biomarker (BBBM) testing.

2. How many patients were diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease (*ICD-10 codes = G30, G30.1, G30.8, G30.9, F00, F00.1, F00.2 or F00.9*) in your Health Board in the last 12-month period for which data are available?

	Number of patients
Total Alzheimer's Disease	172

3. How many patients were diagnosed with Mild Cognitive Impairment and / or Mild Dementia due to Alzheimer's Disease (*ICD-10 codes = G31.84, G30.1, or MMSE scores = 21 to 24*) in your Health Board in the last 12-month period for which data are available?

The UHB does not hold the requested information as patients with Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) are discharged back to their GP.

	Number of patients
Mild cognitive impairment (<i>ICD-10 = G31.84</i>)	Not held
Early onset Alzheimer's Disease (<i>ICD-10 = G30.1</i>)	
Mild cognitive impairment (<i>Mini-mental State Examination MMSE = 21 to 24</i>)	
Mild cognitive impairment (<i>other sources of definition</i>)	

4. Where, if at all, does the Health Board carry out lumbar punctures (cerebrospinal fluid) for diagnosing patients with Alzheimer's Disease?

The UHB does not undertake lumbar punctures for diagnosing patients with Alzheimer's Disease.

	Yes / No
Lumbar punctures carried out within the Health Board itself	No
Lumbar punctures referred elsewhere and carried out external to the Health Board	No

Health Board does not carry out lumbar punctures to diagnose Alzheimer's Disease	No
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5. Please provide a list of the full names of other Health Boards/Trusts or other organisations to which the Health Board refers patients for lumbar punctures in the diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease.

The UHB does not refer patients for lumbar punctures in the diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease.

Full name of organisation(s)
Not applicable

6. What is the average waiting time for a patient to get an appointment for a lumbar puncture to test for a diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease?

	Number
Average waiting time (weeks)	Not applicable

7. How many lumbar punctures to test for Alzheimer's Disease took place in the last 3-month period for which data are available?

	Number of procedures
Number of lumbar punctures	Not applicable

8. How many Blood-based Biomarker (BBBM) tests from Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) to test for Alzheimer's Disease were conducted in the last 3-month period for which data are available?

The UHB does not undertake BBBM tests from Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF) to test for Alzheimer's Disease.

	Number of tests
Number of Blood-based Biomarker tests (CSF)	Not applicable

9. Where, if at all, does the Health Board carry out Blood-based Biomarker (BBBM) tests from Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) for diagnosing patients with Alzheimer's Disease?

The UHB does not undertake BBBM tests from CSF to test for Alzheimer's Disease.

	Yes / No
Pathology laboratory within the Health Board	Not applicable
Pathology laboratory external to the Health Board	
Health Board does not test for BBBMs to diagnose Alzheimer's Disease	

10. Please provide a list of the full names of other Health Boards/Trusts or other organisations, to which the Health Board refers BBBM tests from cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) for pathology in the diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease.

The UHB does not refer onwards to other organisations for BBBM tests from CSF for pathology in the diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease.

Full name of Health Board or organisation(s)
Not applicable.

11. What is the average waiting time for pathology results to come back from Blood-based Biomarker tests?

	Days
Average waiting time (days)	Not applicable

12. To what extent are there plans for service improvement of diagnosing Alzheimer's Disease?

	Yes / No
Implementation of plans has started	No
A plan exists and implementation has not started	No
A plan is being developed	No
There is no plan	Yes
Other – please state	Not applicable

13. Are the plans for service improvement of diagnosing Alzheimer's Disease related to:

	Yes / No
Cognitive assessment services	No
Biomarker services	No
None / neither	Yes

14. Which of the following services does the Health Board have in place in preparation for increased service delivery for Alzheimer's Disease?

The UHB confirms that it does not have arrangements in place in preparation for increased service delivery for Alzheimer's Disease.

	Related to administration of lumbar punctures Yes / No	Related to Blood-based Biomarker testing Yes / No
Budget	Not applicable	Not applicable
People		
Training		
Clinic space / capacity		
Governance arrangements		