

Reference:	FOI.16989.25
Subject:	Blood services
Date of Request:	30 March 2025

Requested:

1. Which hospitals within your trust have cell salvage machines and where are they utilised – theatre, maternity and/or A&E?
2. Which hospitals within your trust have a non-blood management system: blood volumisers, blood clotting medication, anti-anaemia protocol (IV iron, ESAs)?
3. Which hospitals within each trust have staff trained in ‘bloodless surgery’ techniques: cryo, thermal, keyhole, laser, etc?
4. Which hospitals within you trust have facilities to treat patients who refuse blood in A&E?
5. Does your trust have a ‘Patients Who Refuse Blood’ policy in place?
6. Does your trust teach staff to respect patient beliefs and directives for healthcare and not coerce patients into complying with the beliefs of medical staff?

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms all four (4) of it’s acute hospital sites (Glangwili General Hospital (GGH), Prince Philip Hospital (PPH), Withybush General Hospital (WGH) and Bronglais General Hospital (BGH) have cell salvage machines available. The machines will be utilised where required within Theatres and the Maternity departments.
2. The UHB confirms all hospitals within its footprint have anti-anaemia protocols.
3. The UHB provides, within the table below, details of which hospitals have staff trained in ‘bloodless surgery’ techniques.

Technique	Hospital
Laparoscopic (keyhole*)	GGH, PPH, WGH & BGH
Laser Surgery	GGH & PPH

* Please note: for keyhole bloodless surgery, not all specialties across the sites have all staff trained in these procedures.

4. The UHB confirms it has no facilities to treat patients who refuse blood in its Accident and Emergency (A&E) departments.
5. The UHB confirms it does have a ‘Patients who Refuse Blood’ policy in place.
6. The UHB confirms that during the welcome to Hywel Dda workshop for new employees along with the Making a Difference workshop, the workforce team explore the importance of the Hywel Dda values and the positive effect staff have on patients when they are demonstrated. Additionally, the Workforce team touch on this area during some of the INFORM sessions, such

as Unconscious Bias, Cultural Intelligence and Effective Communication. However, they do not go into detail as the sessions are for all staff not just patient facing staff.