

Reference:	FOI.10804.23
Subject:	Bowel care for spinal cord injured patients
Date of Request:	30 January 2023

Requested:

As a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I'd be grateful if you could provide the following information about the provision of bowel care for adults.

1. Does the Board have a formal written policy for digital rectal examination, digital rectal stimulation and the digital removal of faeces in spinal cord injured and other patients with neurogenic bowel dysfunction?
 - (a) Yes
 - (b) No
2. Is your policy based on the policy template that the Spinal Injuries Association circulated to your Board in August 2018?
 - (a) Yes
 - (b) No
 - (c) No bowel assessment and management policy in place
3. If admitted to the Board, will a person with neurogenic bowel dysfunction receive the following bowel care intervention – Digital removal of faeces?
 - (a) Yes
 - (b) No
4. If admitted to the Board, will a person with neurogenic bowel dysfunction receive the following bowel care intervention – Digital rectal stimulation?
 - (a) Yes
 - (b) No
5. If admitted to the Board, will a person with neurogenic bowel dysfunction receive the following bowel care intervention – Trans anal irrigation?
 - (a) Yes
 - (b) No
6. Do you have ward-based staff skilled in supporting patients with neurogenic bowel care interventions, including the digital removal of faeces?
 - (a) Yes
 - (b) No
7. Are staff available seven days a week to undertake these bowel care interventions?
 - (a) Yes
 - (b) No
8. Does the Board have a policy that allows for the personal care assistants/carers of spinal cord injured patients to assist with the bowel care element of the patient's care?
 - (a) Yes
 - (b) No

9. Does the Board have an appropriate clinical lead in place (such as a Continence Manager) to manage the overall delivery of bowel care interventions to patients?
- (a) Yes
 - (b) No
10. What are the contact details for this clinical lead (i.e. name, job title, telephone number and email address)?

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) regrets to inform you that it does not hold the information requested, as the UHB does not manage spinal cord injuries.

All patients with spinal injuries are promptly transferred to tertiary care in Swansea Bay University Health Board (SBUHB), and possibly further, for them to manage the immediate injury and the follow-on rehabilitation, including the management of bowel dysfunction related to their spinal injuries.

We therefore recommend that you redirect your request to the Freedom of Information (Fol) Team in SBUHB, who may be able to help with your enquiry. Contact details for SBUHB are as follows:-

FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk or alternatively, you can contact: FOIA Team, Swansea Bay University Health Board, Health Board Headquarters, 1 Talbot Gateway, Port Talbot, SA12 7BR.