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| Reference: | FOI.14486.24 |
| Subject: | Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF) |
| Date of Request: | 22 May 2024 |

Requested:

1. Do you have a CSF leak service in your Health Board?
2. Do you have a care pathway for managing these patients?
3. Is this care pathway adherent to the UK consensus guidelines?

If no, please share your plans for developing this pathway and an estimated timeframe. You may find the guidelines' supplementary material 2 (Quality Standards) & 3 (Audit Tool) useful in developing this pathway.

If yes, please confirm your health board has the following as outlined by the guidelines:

- a. Do you have specialist clinical opinion, familiar and skilled in diagnosis and treatment of SIH?
 - b. Do you have a specialist neuroradiologist who is able to perform CT myelography, and Digital subtraction myelography, and to administer targeted blood and fibrin patches?
 - c. Do you have local guidelines for the use of fibrin sealant?
 - d. Do you have a spinal neurosurgeon who is able to repair ventral leaks and CSF venous fistulas?
 - e. Do you have access to a CSF leak MDT?
4. If you are not able to provide a comprehensive CSF leak service, what is the route for patients to access timely evidence-based care outside of Wales.
 5. What measures are in place to support the mental health of CSF leak patients?
 6. Please provide us with a copy of your policy for preventing, identifying and managing Post-Dural Puncture Headache (PDPH).

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that it does not have a CSF leak service.
2. The UHB confirms that it does have a care pathway for managing patients with a CSF leak.
3. The UHB confirms that the care pathway is adherent to the UK consensus guidelines.
 - a. The UHB confirms that it does not have a specialist clinical opinion, familiar and skilled in diagnosis and treatment of Spontaneous Intracranial Hypotension (SIH).
 - b. The UHB confirms that it does not have a specialist Neuroradiologist.
 - c. The UHB confirms that it does not have local guidelines for the use of fibrin sealant.
 - d. The UHB confirms that it does not have a spinal Neurosurgeon able to repair ventral leaks and CSF venous fistulas.

- e. The UHB confirms that it does have access to a CSF leak multidisciplinary team (MDT).
4. The UHB's Neurology patients are initially referred to Morriston Hospital, within Swansea Bay University Health Board (SBUHB) for initial assessment, with onward referral to tertiary units outside of Wales if required, for appropriate management.
5. The UHB does not have a specific Mental Health Service (MHS) for CSF leak patients. However, the UHB's MHS would see patients if there is a specific need as a result of trauma.
6. The UHB does not hold the information requested. Please see response to question 4.