

Reference:	FOI.6470.21
Subject:	Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS)
Date of Request:	14 July 2021

Requested:

This query relates to services for people suffering with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.

1. For the financial years:
 - i. 1st April 2018 – 31st March 2019,
 - ii. 1st April 2019 – 31st March 2020,
 - iii. 1st April 2020 – 31st March 2021
 Please indicate the number of patients in your NHS Trust with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.
2. If your Trust deals with both adults and children, then please indicate numbers for both of these patient groups the financial years:
 - i. 1st April 2018 – 31st March 2019,
 - ii. 1st April 2019 – 31st March 2020,
 - iii. 1st April 2020 – 31st March 2021.
3. Please outline what services and clinics are available within the trust for Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.
4. If there are services available could you please indicate the length of the current waiting list?
5. Does the Health Board have plans to open any new Chronic Fatigue Syndrome services? If yes please provide details.

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) provides, within the table below, the number of admissions with a diagnosis of CFS, as recorded on the UHB's Welsh Patient Administration System (WPAS), during the financial years requested.

Financial year	Number
2018/19	91
2019/20	83
2020/21	50

Please note: - The numbers provided relate to the number of admissions where a diagnosis code of CFS is recorded in the admitting consultant episode. This diagnosis may be secondary or tertiary and not the actual reason for admission but nevertheless recorded as part of the patients' medical history. Additionally, the information is for the number of hospital admissions undertaken in the given time periods and not patient numbers. Therefore, duplicate numbers of actual patients may exist.

2. The UHB is unable to provide you with a breakdown of the number of children and adults admitted with a diagnosis of CFS, 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 2018/General Data Protection Regulations 2016 (GDPR), 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 define 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.

3. The UHB does not provide CFS clinics. However, if referrals are received as General Medicine referrals, it is at the discretion of the Consultant as to whether the referral can be accepted, passed back to the GP or referred to alternative support and therapy and are directed to access some of the many resources available via the internet.
4. The UHB does not have a waiting list, as CFS services are not provided within the UHB.
5. The UHB confirms that there are no current plans to open CFS clinics.