

Reference:	FOI.16531.25
Subject:	Community equipment services (CES)
Date of Request:	4 February 2025

Requested:

1. How do your Community Equipment Services (CES) dispose of foam cushions and mattresses? Landfill, incineration, or other method – please be specific. (If a third party takes care of this for you, please name them and explain the process of disposal.)
2. How do they decontaminate condemned cushions/mattresses before disposal?
3. How do they decontaminate cushions/mattresses between patient use?
4. Who is responsible for Infection Prevention at your Community Equipment Service?
5. Who is the Carbon Reduction & Sustainability Lead at your Community Equipment Service?

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) regrets to inform you that it does not hold the information requested on CES for Pembrokeshire. We therefore recommend that you redirect this part of your request to the Freedom of Information Team within Pembrokeshire County Council, who may be able to help you with your enquiry. Their contact details are set out below:

Information Governance Team, Pembrokeshire County Council, County Hall, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1TP or by email FOI@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

1. Within Ceredigion, the UHB confirms that it utilises the Local Authority's (LA) Recycling Services for equipment disposal. Foam cushions and mattresses would only be disposed of when contaminated or excessively worn; these would be placed in a skip for contaminated waste, which is then collected and taken to landfill. Within Carmarthenshire, the UHB utilises a third-party contractor for its disposal requirements through Browns Waste Management and Recycling Ltd.
2. The UHB confirms that within Ceredigion, no condemned cushions or mattresses are decontaminated. Any contaminated cushions and mattresses are placed in one of the UHB's skips, which is labelled 'contaminated waste', and this is handled appropriately by the LA's Recycling Services. Within Carmarthenshire, the cushions and mattress covers are removed from the items and washed in line with the manufacturer's instructions before being recycled or disposed of. Additionally, the interior of the cushions and mattresses are wiped over with Clinell wipes or antibacterial spray prior to recycling and reissue or disposal.
3. Within Ceredigion, contaminated cushions and mattresses are cleaned between patients, using products purchased from Aztec Chemicals. The foam cushions and mattresses are removed from their covers and following a visible inspection for any damage/wear/contamination, the foam is sprayed with a microbiocidal aerosol spray and wiped down. The covers are wiped down with a diluted disinfectant used for decontamination. However, if the cover is soiled, it will be put through a decontamination cycle in a washing machine before being taken to the drying room, to be dried and returned to the warehouse. Within Carmarthenshire, the cushions and mattress covers are removed from the items and washed in line with the manufacturer's instructions

before being reused. The interior cushions and mattresses are cleaned using Clinell wipes or antibacterial spray.

4. The UHB confirms that all staff are trained and responsible for managing Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC). All staff have been trained by the IPC staff within the UHB, as well as completing a mandatory e-learning course. IPC guidance is also taken from the UHB IPC teams. Within Ceredigion, management within the CES are responsible for reviewing and updating the relevant risk assessments, with support from the Corporate Health and Safety Team. Additionally, within Carmarthenshire, it is the responsibility of the Carmarthenshire Integrated Community Equipment Service Operational Manager.
5. The UHB is unable to provide the information requested, as there is no role that fits this request within the CES. However, the UHB would be led by the organisational leads / team managers within its footprint and follow any guidance, in line with LA procedures and guidance.