

Reference:	FOI.15122.24
Subject:	Community Respiratory Service mapping
Date of Request:	22 August 2024

Requested:

Community Respiratory Service Mapping

1. Does your trust provide community-based bronchiectasis services?
2. Does your trust provide services dedicated to complex bronchiectasis e.g. those with frequent exacerbations, or comorbidities?
3. Does your trust provide community-based services treat complex respiratory conditions such as COPD, interstitial lung disease?

a. If yes, please complete the table below:

i. Name of provider	
ii. Number of patients contracted/treated in the past year	
iii. Address of provider	

High-cost drug propensity

4. Are the community service providers authorised to treat patients with any of the following drug types?
 - Monoclonal antibodies
 - Nebulised or infusion polymyxins / aminoglycosides antibiotics e.g. Colomycin or Gentamicin
 - Other high-cost drugs

Resource utilisation

5. What is the total resource funding utilisation in social care for exacerbating bronchiectasis, in the last financial year?
6. What/how much is funded from NHS budgets?
7. What/how much is funded by social care budgets?

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all of the information requested, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The “appropriate limit” represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours (or 2½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

In order to provide you with data requested for question 3a ii, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of Respiratory patient notes, to identify the information that would fulfil this part of your request, as the information requested is not recorded centrally.

Additionally, for questions 5, 6 and 7, bronchiectasis does not have its own cost code and is linked to the social care health budget and is not easily identifiable and accessible. Therefore, the UHB would be required to undertake a manual search of all financial ledgers, for the period requested, to identify any information that would fulfil these parts of your request.

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), which provides an exemption from a public authority's obligation to comply with a request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed the appropriate limit.

However, under Section 16 of the FoIA, we are required as a public authority, to provide advice and assistance so far as it is reasonable, to individuals who have made a request under the FoIA. Therefore, the UHB provides the accessible information it holds overleaf.

1. The UHB confirms that it does not have a specific community-based bronchiectasis service. However, the UHB does have community general respiratory nurse specialists and physiotherapists, who support in the management of patients with bronchiectasis and contribute to a weekly virtual Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) meeting run by the bronchiectasis lead consultant.
2. The UHB confirms that it does provide services dedicated to complex bronchiectasis, with a Respiratory Physician who leads in the management of bronchiectasis and chronic infections, and a nurse and physiotherapist led out-patient bronchiectasis clinic.
3. The UHB confirms that it does have community-based services that treat complex respiratory conditions. See response to question 2.

3a. The UHB has completed the table below, as requested.

i. Name of provider	Hywel Dda University Health Board. The UHB's Respiratory Team includes consultants, specialist nursing team, physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists and Health Care Support Workers (HCSW)
ii. Number of patients treated in the past year	Section 12 exemption applied.
iii. Address of provider	Contact details can be accessed via the UHB's website. A link has been provided below: General enquiries - Hywel Dda University Health Board (nhs.wales)

4. The UHB confirms that its patients are treated with monoclonal antibodies in the Difficult Asthma Clinic (DAC) under the supervision of specialist Secondary Care. Nebulised or infusion polymyxins/aminoglycosides antibiotics are initiated in Secondary Care only. Other high-cost medications are not used.

5. to 7. Section 12 exemption applied.