

Reference:	FOI.2234.19
Subject:	Continuing healthcare (CHC) assessments
Date of Request:	30 December 2019

Requested:

I would be grateful if you would provide me with the following information for the period 1st January 2017 to 31st December 2019 for each year:

1. The number of requests for a Continuing Health Care assessment.
2. The number of requests for a CHC which were screened using the Checklist Tool.
3. The number of completed Multi Disciplinary Team assessments.
4. The number of completed Decision Support Tools.
5. The number of assessments that met the criteria for CHC funding.
6. The number of assessments that did not meet the criteria for CHC funding.
7. The number of appeals lodged against that the criteria for CHC was not met.
8. The number of successful appeals.
9. The number of assessments of people living in a domestic dwelling that met the criteria for CHC funding.
10. The number of assessments of people living in a residential care home that met the criteria for CHC funding.

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) does not hold this information, as the number of assessment requests that did not meet the criteria for CHC funding following completion of the Decision Support Tool (DST), are not submitted or recorded.
2. The UHB does not hold the number of requests for CHC funding which were screened using the checklist tool. The checklist tool is not mandated for use in NHS Wales and so use of the tool is not monitored.
3. The UHB does not record the number of Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) assessments that are completed. Within NHS Wales, the DST is completed during a multi-disciplinary team meeting. The MDT will take into consideration all information and determine if the totality suggests whether the individual has a primary need for health and/or social care, before accepting or rejecting a referral for assessment. As stated within question 1, the number of referrals that did not meet the acceptance criteria is not recorded.
4. The UHB does not record the number of completed DSTs. As previously stated, only the number of Long-term Care Assessments that meet the criteria are recorded on the National Complex Care Database (NCCD).

5. The UHB confirms the number of people that received CHC funding for the period requested is one thousand eight hundred and seven (1,807).
6. The UHB does not hold the number of assessments that did not meet the criteria for CHC funding as the assessments which do not meet the criteria are not submitted or recorded.
7. The UHB confirms the number of appeals lodged against the criteria for CHC for the requested period is nine (9).
8. The UHB confirms no successful CHC appeals have been lodged for the requested period.

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with the information requested for questions 9 and 10 as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the “appropriate level” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. The “appropriate level” represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours or (2 ½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

In order to provide you with the information being requested in relation to the number of assessments of people living in a domestic dwelling and the number of people living in a residential care home that met the criteria for CHC funding the UHB would need to manually scrutinise the referrals accepted during the period requested.

It is estimated that answering these parts of your request would cost:

1,807 referrals @ 5 minutes per record = 150.5 hours
150.5 hours @ £25 per hour = £3,764.58

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI), 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.