

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.1339.19
<b>Subject:</b>	Criteria for sending patients to other Welsh (or English) health authorities
<b>Date of Request:</b>	13 August 2019

**Requested:**

What are the criteria for sending patients to other Welsh (or English) health authorities?

**Response:**

All Out of Area referrals are considered in line with the NHS Wales Prior Approval Policy, when there is a lack of local service provision or expertise.

The Policy' is accessible via the following link:

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/documents/862/702-NHSWalesPriorApprovalPolicy.pdf>

The NHS secondary care consultant or other care provider, for example a General Practitioner (GP) or dentist, with the support of an NHS secondary care consultant where available, needs to demonstrate that all local and locally commissioned service provision has been exhausted in order for an external referral to be considered for an 'expert' opinion.

In addition, for reasons due to lack of local expertise, the clinician must demonstrate that the referral being made is to an 'expert' within that specific clinical speciality.