

Reference:	FOI.5941.21
Subject:	Dosing intervals between first and second COVID-19 vaccinations
Date of Request:	1 June 2021

Requested:

1. Has there been a Policy change for the Astra Zeneca vaccine dose interval from up to 12 weeks to 12-15 weeks?

And, if so:
2. When was this Policy decision taken?
3. Why has it not been publicised and made easily available on official websites i.e. Welsh Government, NHS Wales, Public Health Wales and HDUHB?
4. It has been stated repeatedly that all decisions made in respect of managing the Coronavirus pandemic in Wales have been on the basis of scientific advice. What is the underpinning scientific evidence for this Policy change?

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) does not have its own policy in relation to the administration of COVID vaccines. However, it does operate in accordance with the guidance issued by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

Whilst operating in accordance with Section 45 of the Freedom of Information Code of Practice, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance.

Therefore, the UHB can confirm that the GP Practices are responsible for scheduling their own vaccination clinics and are expected to be scheduling the second vaccinations for eleven (11) to twelve (12) weeks, following the first vaccination.

On occasions where the UHB is made aware of a GP Practice exceeding the twelve (12) week interval, the UHB's Primary Care Team can arrange to contact the practices concerned, to discuss specific issues and concerns.

The UHB's Patient Support Services Team is available to discuss and assist with any issues and complaints. Their contact details are available on the UHB's webpage via the attached link:

<https://hduhb.nhs.wales/healthcare/services-and-teams/patient-support-services-complaints-feedback/>

The UHB provides assurance that evidence does show that there is still high effectiveness of the Oxford/AztraZeneca vaccine, with an interval up to fifteen (15) weeks. However, the UHB encourages GP Practices to only increase the wait time beyond the recommended twelve (12) weeks, where a patient is unable to attend the second vaccination appointment due to illness or similar. In such circumstances, an appointment should be rescheduled as soon as it possibly can be.