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| Reference: | FOI.13498.23 |
| Subject: | Drug overdoses |
| Date of Request: | 29 December 2023 |

Requested:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to ask the following information regarding drug overdoses please, and would like the information broken down by hospital site. If this is not possible, please state that the data is at health board level.

- 1) How many admissions related to drug overdose for year 2022?
- 2) How many admissions related to drug overdose from January to November 2023?
- 3) What are the most common drug overdose cases admitted in your hospital?
- 4) How many patients admitted for drug overdose received medical treatment at a ward level 2022?
- 5) How many patients admitted for drug overdose received medical treatment at a ward level Jan - Nov 2023?
- 6) How many patients admitted for drug overdose required admission to the intensive care unit for advanced medical intervention such as mechanical ventilation and continuous renal replacement therapy in 2022?
- 7) How many patients admitted for drug overdose required admission to the intensive care unit for advanced medical intervention such as mechanical ventilation and continuous renal replacement therapy in January - November 2023?
- 8) What is the average length of stay for those patients admitted for drug overdose in your intensive/critical care unit?
- 9) What is the total number of deaths related to drug overdose in your hospital in 2022?
- 10) What is the total number of deaths related to drug overdose in your hospital Jan-Nov 2023?

Response:

- 1) & 2) Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) provides within the table below the number of drug overdose related admissions, by hospital site, as recorded on the UHB's Welsh Patient Administration System (WPAS) for the time periods requested.

| Time Period | Bronglais General Hospital | Glangwili General Hospital | Prince Philip Hospital | Withybush General Hospital |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2022 | 81 | 221 | 185 | 73 |
| 01/01/2023 – 30/11/2023 | 62 | 251 | 194 | 45 |

- 3) The UHB confirms the most common drug overdose cases admitted to hospital were by poisoning through Aminophenol derivatives, as recorded on the UHB's WPAS.
- 4) & 5) Please see the response to questions one and two for the information requested.
- 6) & 7) The UHB provides within the table below the number of patients admitted for a drug overdose that required admission to the intensive care unit for advanced medical intervention, as recorded on the WPAS, during the time periods requested.

| Time Period | Bronglais General Hospital | Glangwili General Hospital | Prince Phillip Hospital | Withybush General Hospital |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2022 | * | 38 | 10 | 13 |
| 01/01/2023 – 30/11/2023 | 10 | 23 | 6 | 17 |

Where the figure in the table has been replaced with an asterisk (*), the UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number, due to the low number of cases (5 and under), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. Therefore, the UHB is withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the FoIA.

This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulations (UK GDPR), as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles 6 and 9 of the UK GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore, there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the Data Protection Act 2018/UK GDPR define personal data as data which relates to a living individual who can be identified solely from that data, or from that data and other information, which is in the possession of the data controller.

8) The UHB provides within the table below the average length of stay for patients admitted into the intensive/critical care unit for drug overdoses.

| Average Length of Stay | Bronglais General Hospital | Glangwili General Hospital | Prince Philip Hospital | Withybush General Hospital |
|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Days | 5 | 10 | 3 | 9 |

9) & 10) The UHB regrets to inform you that it does not hold the information requested. As the cause of death is determined by the Coroner, we recommend that you redirect this part of your request to the Freedom of Information Teams within each Local Authority in the UHB's footprint, who may be able to help you with your enquiry. Their details are set out below:

- Information & Data Protection Officer, Carmarthenshire County Council, County Hall, Carmarthen, SA31 1JP or by email foia@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
- Complaints & Freedom of Information Team, Ceredigion County Council, Canolfan Rheidol, Rhodfa Padarn, Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 3UE or by email foi@ceredigion.gov.uk
- Information Governance Team, Pembrokeshire County Council, County Hall, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1TP or by email FOI@pembrokeshire.gov.uk