

Reference:	FOI.17449.25
Subject:	Early Pregnancy Units (EPUs)
Date of Request:	29 May 2025

Requested:

I would be grateful if you could provide the following details regarding your early pregnancy unit (EPU) services:

1. Do you provide a nurse lead early pregnancy unit EPU within your gynaecology directorate?
2. If so, what agenda for change banding are the nurses who are carrying out these duties?
3. What formal training or qualifications have these nurses undertaken to support their role in delivering care within the EPU?
4. Our nurses within your EPU responsible for performing ultrasound scans? If so, what training or accreditation do they hold to support this practice?
5. Do the nurses working in the EPU also have dual roles that include responsibilities within the gynaecology outpatient department?

if this service is not provided, I would appreciate confirmation of that as well.

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms it does provide a nurse led EPU within its Gynaecology department.
2. The UHB confirms the nursing staff working on the EPU are band 7 nurses.
3. The UHB confirms that no additional training has been undertaken to support their role in delivering care within the EPU. All nurse sonographers working within the EPUs hold the postgraduate level 7 qualification in Ultrasound of Early Pregnancy, which is Consortium for the Accreditation of Sonographic Education (CASE) accredited. All nurse sonographers are Registered Nurses included on the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) register.
4. Please see response to question 3. The UHB confirms all registered nurses working in the EPU perform ultrasound scans.
5. The UHB has EPUs in Glangwili General Hospital (GGH) and Wthybush General Hospital (WGH). The UHB has one (1) nurse sonographer in the EPU in WGH, who is also the unit manager for the gynaecology outpatient department, and therefore does have other responsibilities outside of the EPU.

The remaining nursing staff working within the EPU's do not have dual roles that include responsibilities within the gynaecology departments.