

Reference:	FOI.3539.20
Subject:	Funding arrangements for patients
Date of Request:	9 July 2020

Requested:

Funding arrangements for patients having to travel and/or stay outside the area for specialist treatment.

I am writing to make a request in relation to the matter detailed above. Please disclose all policies, guidance, and instructions, including terms, conditions, eligibility, and format/method of payment, held by Hywel Dda University Health Board with regards to:

1. Up-front funding for or reimbursement of travel available for patients and escorts of patients receiving Terminations of Pregnancy, both under nationally-directed schemes and any other provisions;
2. Up-front funding for or reimbursement for overnight stays available of patients and escorts of patients receiving Terminations of Pregnancy;
3. Where different to (1) above, up-front funding for or reimbursement of travel available for patients and escorts of patients receiving non-primary care, both under nationally-directed schemes and any other provisions; and
4. Where different to (2) above, up-front funding for or reimbursement of overnight stays available for patients and escorts of patients receiving non-primary care;

Further, please disclose:

5. The 2020-21 Hywel Dda University Health Board budget for up-front funding for or reimbursement of travel and overnight stays for patients receiving:
 - a. Terminations of pregnancy; and
 - b. Non-primary care

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) regrets to inform you that it does not hold policies specific to your request. However, the UHB does have policies that are relevant to your request.

This information is already within the public domain; therefore, Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) has applied an exemption under Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as the information is accessible by another means.

For ease of reference please click on the attached links which will take you directly to the policies that relate to your request:

NHS Wales Policy – Making decisions on individual patient funding requests (IPFR):

<http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/documents/862/263-NHSWalesPolicyMakingDecisionIPFR.pdf>

NHS Wales Prior approval policy:

<http://howis.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/documents/862/702-AWPriorApprovalPolicy..pdf>

Welsh patients accessing treatment in counties of the European economic area – All Wales procedure:

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/documents/862/Item14aaiiPatientsAccessingTreatmentinEEACountries-AllWalesProcedure.pdf>

In addition, the UHB currently operates the Hospital Travel Cost Scheme (HTCS) in line with Welsh Government (WG) guidelines. This is funding available to reimburse patients that need to access acute services but are affected by financial hardship.

For ease of reference the link to the NHS Wales webpage has been provided below.

<http://www.healthcosts.wales.nhs.uk/travel-costs>

The UHB can confirm it has a budget of £89,299 for the financial year 2020/21, to cover provision of the Hospital Travel Cost Scheme within our region. This budget is sufficient to meet both current and historical levels of demand.