

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.19612.26
<b>Subject:</b>	Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV)-1/HSV-2 and Neonatal Herpes guidance
<b>Date of Request:</b>	13 February 2026

**Requested:**

I am seeking copies of any current, and any previously in-force within the last five years, guidance documents, clinical guidelines, policies, protocols, pathways, standard operating procedures, or written advice used within your Health Board relating to:

1. Neonatal HSV Infection
  - The identification, investigation, management, treatment, or prevention of Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV) infection in newborns, including both HSV-1 and HSV-2, whether suspected or confirmed.
2. HSV in Pregnancy and Perinatal Care
  - The management of HSV infection in pregnancy, labour, delivery, and the immediate postnatal period where this relates to neonatal HSV risk.
3. Post-Birth Transmission of HSV

Guidance relating to the prevention and management of post-natal HSV transmission to newborns, including but not limited to:

  - HSV-1 oral/labial infection (e.g. cold sores)
  - Transmission from parents, carers, visitors, or healthcare staff
  - Infection prevention and control measures in maternity wards, postnatal wards, neonatal units, and community midwifery services
  - Advice provided to parents regarding contact precautions following birth

For the avoidance of doubt, this request is not limited to genital herpes (HSV-2) and includes any guidance concerning HSV-1, non-genital transmission routes, and neonatal exposure after delivery.

This request includes documents produced by:

- The Health Board directly
  - Neonatal units or maternity services within the Board
  - Infection Prevention and Control teams
  - Safeguarding or risk management teams
  - Any regional neonatal network guidance formally adopted or implemented by the Health Board
4. If your Health Board does not produce its own guidance but instead adopts national or all-Wales guidance (for example via NHS Wales networks, the Wales Neonatal Network, Public Health Wales, RCOG/BASHH guidance, or other national bodies), please:
    - Confirm this; and
    - Provide copies of any local implementation policies, adaptations, or ratification records.

**Response:**

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) does not hold all the information requested as it does not have policies or procedures specific to HSV-1/HSV-2. The UHB adheres to the Joint British

Association for Sexual Health and HIV and Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists national UK guideline for the management of HSV in pregnancy and the neonate. A link to the guideline has been provided below:

[Joint British Association for Sexual Health and HIV and Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists national UK guideline for the management of herpes simplex virus \(HSV\) in pregnancy and the neonate \(2024 update\)](#)