

Reference:	FOI.13565.24
Subject:	Hysterectomy wait list
Date of Request:	12 January 2024

Requested:

1. Could please let me know how long the wait list is currently for patients in Hywel Dda University Health Board for a hysterectomy? Are there any plans currently in place, or being worked on to reduce this wait?
2. Does Hywel Dda University Health Board have any facilities able to provide hysterectomies? If not, where are patients referred to?
3. Are patients who are transgender included on the generalised hysterectomy wait list, or required to go to a gender and identity related surgeon instead?

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that the current longest wait for a hysterectomy is eighteen (18) months. However, procedures are booked and treated in clinical priority.

The UHB's gynaecology service currently has a focus on performing procedures for the longest waiting patients, with a view to having no one waiting longer than fifty-two (52) weeks by March 2024. Thereafter, with an increase in capacity, the UHB is aiming to meet the Welsh Government (WG) target of no patient waiting longer than thirty-six (36) weeks.

2. The UHB confirms that it has facilities to undertake hysterectomy procedures at Bronglais General Hospital, Glangwili General Hospital and Withybush General Hospital.
3. The UHB confirms that it does not have a generalised hysterectomy list, as hysterectomies are not on patient request. Patients are assessed on individual clinical need and are graded by priority from routine through to urgent cases. This is independent of a patient's gender status or identity, and it is purely assessed on clinical requirement.

A hysterectomy is not always part of the specialist gender identity pathway of surgeries commissioned by Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC) with NHS England. Therefore, as the only identified clinical requirement to perform hysterectomies is for the purposes of gender dysphoria, the UHB's ability is inhibited. Additionally, a hysterectomy for the purpose of gender dysphoria is currently on the Interventions Not Normally Undertaken (INNU) list within the UHB and is not actively undertaken.