

Reference:	FOI.6870.21
Subject:	Infection control on ward 10 in Wthybush General Hospital
Date of Request:	13 September 2021

Requested:

I have asked about infection control on ward 10 Wthybush Hospital for the period 1 November 2020 to 31 January 2021.

1. Is there anywhere on health board website where I can access this information?
2. How many infection control staff are in Wthybush Hospital?
3. How often are the wards swabbed to check infection levels?
4. Were they looking for Covid or MRSA?
5. And what is the wards cleaning regime?

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that infection data is available on the Public Health Wales (PHW) website. However, the data reported is at hospital level and not ward level. The PHW Healthcare associated infections webpage can be accessed via the link below:

[Healthcare associated infections \(HCAI\) - Public Health Wales \(nhs.wales\)](https://www.nhs.uk/healthcare-associated-infections/)

2. The UHB confirms that it currently employs three (3) Infection Prevention and Control members of staff in Wthybush General Hospital (WGH)
3. The UHB confirms that there is currently no environmental swabbing of wards programme in place. However, the cleaning of all areas across the UHB is monitored through Credits for Cleaning audits, which are completed in accordance with the national guidance. The Welsh Government (WG) Code of Practice for the Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections and National Standards for Cleaning in NHS Wales can be accessed via the links below:

[code-of-practice-for-the-prevention-and-control-of-healthcare-associated-infections.pdf \(gov.wales\)](https://www.gov.wales/code-of-practice-for-the-prevention-and-control-of-healthcare-associated-infections.pdf)

[Cleaning Standards2009ed.pdf \(wales.nhs.uk\)](https://www.wales.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/resources/documents/2009/Cleaning_Standards2009ed.pdf)

Additionally, a paper on the 'Enhancement of Cleaning Standards within the UHB to meet Recommended Standards and Principles as described by WG for all NHS Wales Organisations' was presented at the UHB's Finance Committee Meeting on 25 February 2021 and can be accessed via the link below:

<https://hduhb.nhs.wales/about-us/governance-arrangements/board-committees/finance-committee/finance/finance-committee-meeting-25-february-2021/item-2-4-6-enhanced-cleaning-standards/>

4. The UHB does not hold this information. Please see response to question 3.
5. The UHB confirms that Ward 10 in WGH is cleaned daily by assigned ward domestic staff, which is followed by a check clean with some of the tasks being of variable frequency.

The UHB's standard cleaning procedures comprise of routine cleaning and deep cleaning, for isolation rooms and/or following infection outbreaks.

Routine cleaning for general cleaning duties include:

- Emptying of all waste receptacles
- Full clean of wash hand basins, toilets, showers and bathroom areas (neutral detergent and water)
- Damp wiping ledges and all flat surfaces (neutral detergent and water)
- High dusting of high ledges, surfaces and rails
- Dry mopping and damp mopping of floors (neutral detergent and water)
- Wet scrubbing hard floors (neutral detergent and water)
- Walls wiped to hand height (neutral detergent and water)

This is in accordance with department performance standards, safe systems of work and infection control guidelines. All cleaning uses either damp methods or 'static' fibres in order to ensure maximum dust removal.

Deep cleaning routine includes:

- All general cleaning tasks as provided above
- Further cleaning with neutral detergent and water, followed by use of disinfectant, usually Tristel Fuse sporicidal disinfectant.
- Followed by use of UV-C technology as a further stage of environmental disinfection.

This is undertaken in accordance with UHB policies and the National Standards for Cleaning in NHS Wales. All areas are categorised in line with these standards and the ward is subject to monthly routine cleanliness audits in line with NHS Wales guidance.