

Reference:	FOI.1498.19
Subject:	Insulin pumps
Date of Request:	23 August 2019

Requested:

1. Is it standard protocol to return all insulin pumps to the manufacturer (Medtronic) following the death of patients
2. Does the hospital pass information about the cause of death to Medtronic
3. Once the pump is sent off - does the hospital undertake any further investigations or analysis (if so what) from data downloaded or tests undertaken?
4. Does the Board expect a report back from Medtronic. If it receives a report back, what does it do with this information?
5. Can you confirm :
 - a) How many type 1 diabetics are being cared for within the Hywel Dda Health Board and what proportion of these are using insulin pumps?
 - b) How many deaths (in the Board) there have been in the in the last 3 years where it has been identified that Type 1 diabetics using insulin pumps have died from (a) ketoacidosis and (b) hypoglycemia?
 - c) How many deaths there have been from other type 1 diabetics not using Insulin pumps from ketoacidosis and hypoglycemia in the same period?
 - d) Are deaths of diabetic type 1 patients due to ketoacidosis and hypoglycaemia monitored or reported in any way to senior management?

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) does not have a standard protocol which requires insulin pumps to be returned to the manufacturer following the death of a patient. However, it is standard protocol to notify the manufacturer of a patient death, the pump would be returned if requested by the manufacturer.
2. The UHB would share the patient's cause of death with the manufacturer.
3. The UHB does not have a standardised method of investigation or analysis.
4. Any information received from the manufacturer in relation to the patient's death would be filed within the patient's clinical notes.
5. a) The UHB currently has approximately 2,000 patients diagnosed with type 1 diabetes; 250 of these patients are using insulin pumps.
5. b) & c)

The UHB is unable to provide you with the number of patients who were type 1 diabetic and either using or not using an insulin pump, and died with a recorded cause of death of ketoacidosis or hypoglycaemia, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the “appropriate level” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. The “appropriate level” represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours or (2 ½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

In order to provide you with the information for patients who were hospitalised alone, the UHB would need to manually scrutinise the records of patients who were coded as ‘died in hospital’ to identify those patients who were type 1 diabetic and whether or not those patients utilised an insulin pump. The UHB would then be required to cross reference any information with incidents of death recorded on Datix, the UHB’s incident reporting system. Please note, this excludes any patients who may have died within the community.

During April 2017, 164 patients were coded as ‘died in hospital’; therefore, conducting the search for one month alone would far exceed the ‘appropriate level’, costing the UHB the following:

164 @ 15 minutes per patient record = 41 hours

41 hours @ £25 per hours = £1,025

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which provides an exemption from a public authority’s obligation to comply with a request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed the *appropriate limit*.

Under section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the UHB has an obligation to provide advice and assistance. The Office of National Statistics (ONS) collect data on deaths and causes of death and may be able to help you further with your enquiry. Information on how to submit a Freedom of Information request to the ONS can be found via the following link:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/aboutus/transparencyandgovernance/freedomofinformationfoi/makingarequest>

5. d) Patient deaths from Ketoacidosis and Hypoglycaemia are reported via Datix. However, Datix reports are completed on an individual basis by the staff involved in the individual’s care. There is no regulated manner for completion or for the information included in the report.