

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.16440.25
<b>Subject:</b>	Intensive Care Unit (ICU) transfers
<b>Date of Request:</b>	23 January 2025

**Requested:**

1. How much does it cost to transfer patients from the ITU at Prince Philip Hospital which is a fully staffed and equipped ITU to Glanwilli Hospital in Carmarthen utilising Adult Critical Care Transfer Service Cymru or similar teams?
2. How many journeys have been conducted in the last 12 months?
3. What policy is in place that necessitates such transfers and additional strain on costs and patients who are seriously unwell? The ITU has fully trained nursing staff and equipment to deal with critically ill patients without escalation to other units in the majority of patients cases.
4. The full costs for transfer, how much of a percentage of the overspend that Hywel Dda reports does this equate to?
5. Have any patients or families complained about the transfer and the difficulty some may have in visiting their families due to such unnecessary transfer regime?
6. When preparing patients for transfer how much time does this take and does this mean staff are unavailable for other matters?

**Response:**

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) regrets to inform you that it does not hold all of the information requested. The Adult Critical Care Transfer Service (ACCTS) holds the information required in relation to the cost of transferring patients from ICU in Prince Phillip Hospital (PPH) to ICU in Glangwili General Hospital (GGH).

We therefore recommend that you redirect this part of your request to the Freedom of Information Team in ACCTS, who may be able to help you with your enquiry. Contact details are as follows: - [FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk) or alternatively, you can contact Freedom of Information Officer, Health Board Headquarters 1, Talbot Gateway, Baglan Energy Park, Baglan, Port Talbot, SA12 7BR.

2. The UHB confirms that thirty-four (34) patients were transferred from ICU in PPH to ICU in GGH during the period 1 February 2024 to 1 January 2025.
3. The UHB does not hold the requested information. However, the UHB has recently implemented an interim Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) that outlines the management of patients in the ICU in PPH.
4. Not applicable, as the UHB incurs no costs for patient transfers.
5. The UHB confirms that it has not received any complaints around patient transfers from PPH to GGH during the period 1 February 2024 to 31 January 2025.

6. The UHB confirms that there is no definitive time given to support preparing patients for transfer, as each requirement is based on the individual patient need. The transfer is managed by ACCTS, who bring their own team and equipment and undertake the preparation for transfer supported by the UHB's PPH team. Other staff members are always available to maintain and support the care and safety of remaining patients within the ward.