

Reference:	FOI.12514.23
Subject:	Ketamine abuse
Date of Request:	24 August 2023

Requested:

1. How many patients have you admitted in the past five years suffering from the effects of Ketamine misuse? (Please provide an annual breakdown)
2. Of these patients, how many were under:
 - a. 25 years old?
 - b. 50 years old?

(Please provide an annual breakdown):
3. Over the past five years, how many patients have been found suffering from 'Ketamine bladder syndrome'?
4. How many patients using Ketamine have been referred to your Substance Misuse Services in the past five years? (Please provide an annual breakdown)
5. What is the current waiting time for inpatient treatment at a Detoxification and Rehabilitation facility for drug and alcohol abuse in your Health Board Area, funded by the NHS?
6. Does your Health Board have a specialist urology clinic? If so, where?

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with the information requested for question 4, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the "appropriate limit" as stated in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The "appropriate limit" represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours (or 2½ 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 being requested, the UHB would need to undertake a manual search of all Substance Misuse patient records to identify the information that would fulfil this part of your request, as this information is not recorded centrally.

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), 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.

However, under section 16 of the FoIA, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance. Therefore, the UHB provides the accessible data it holds below.

1. The UHB provides, within the table below, the number of patients admitted to a UHB hospital, relating to ketamine misuse, as recorded on the UHB's Welsh Patient Administration System (WPAS), during the 2018 to 2022 calendar years.

Calendar year	Number
2018	*
2019	7
2020	*
2021	*
2022	0
Total	12

Where the figures in the table have been replaced with an asterisk (*), the UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of patients, due to the low numbers (5 and under), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed.

The UHB is therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the FoIA. This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)/UK General Data Protection Regulations, as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles of the UK GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the DPA and UK GDPR define personal data as data that relates to a living individual who can be identified solely from that data or from that data and other information, which is in the possession of the data controller.

2. The UHB is unable to provide the data by age range, as again, due to the low number of patients (5 and under), there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed.
3. The UHB confirms that no patients with 'ketamine bladder syndrome' have been recorded on WPAS, during the 2018 to 2022 calendar years.
4. Section 12 exemption applied.
5. The UHB does not hold the information requested, as waiting times are held by the treatment facilities. Inpatient detoxification is provided by Pine Ward, Cardiff and Vale University Hospital (CAVUHB) and residential rehabilitation is provided by a number of treatment facilities, which are accessed via the Welsh Government (WG) All Wales Rehabilitation Framework.

We therefore recommend that you redirect your request to the relevant Freedom of Information Teams, who may be able to help you with your enquiry. Contact details for CAVUHB and WG are as follows:

FOI.Requests@wales.nhs.uk or alternatively, you can contact: The Freedom of Information Team, Cardiff and Vale UHB Headquarters University Hospital of Wales (UHW), Heath Park, Cardiff, CF14 4XW.

Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales or alternatively, you can contact: Freedom of Information Officer, Information Rights Unit, Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ.

However, the UHB can confirm that its Substance Misuse Service approves the funding for inpatient detoxification and residential rehabilitation and the average funding approval wait time is approximately four (4) days, during the 2022/23 financial year to date.

6. The UHB confirms that it has the following specialist Urology clinics:

- Male Health
- Trial without catheter
- MDT clinic
- MRI clinic

These clinics are held mainly between Prince Philip Hospital and Glangwili General Hospital, with general outpatient clinics being held weekly on all sites.