

Reference:	FOI.17381.25
Subject:	Ketamine attendances
Date of Request:	21 May 2025

Requested:

The number of A&E attendances for which “ketamine” was recorded – either in the patient notes or in the free text field “reason for visit”.

Could you please provide me with these figures for the years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 [most up-to-date figure available]:

Could you please break down these figures by age group.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) provides within the table overleaf, the number of patients that have attended an Accident and Emergency (A&E) department, where the word Ketamine is identified within their medical notes, as recorded on the Welsh Patient Administration System (WPAS), by age range, for the 2020 to 2024 calendar years and the period 1 January to 21 May 2025.

Please note: the information provided is based on free text within the comments field in WPAS. For example, ketamine will have been recorded within a patient record, however, the notes could say ‘patient claims to have never taken ketamine’. Therefore, the numbers provided cannot assert that the patient’s attendance was due to ketamine use.

Calendar year	Age range (in years)			
	0 to 12	13 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 64
2020	0	*	6	6
2021	*	*	*	*
2022	*	*	6	6
2023	*	14	8	6
2024	0	9	14	9
1 January to 21 May 2025	0	5	7	7
Total	**	36	**	**

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 of cases (less than 5), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. The UHB has also replaced totals which could be used to calculate the redacted figure with a double asterisk (**). 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.