

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.17249.25
<b>Subject:</b>	Management of epilepsy in pregnancy
<b>Date of Request:</b>	1 May 2025

**Request and response:**

Freedom of Information Questionnaire – Epilepsy in Pregnancy Services

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) provides the information below as requested.

Hospital Name: Glangwili General Hospital

Trust: Hywel Dda University Health Board

Maternity Medicine Network: Not applicable in NHS Wales

Secondary/Tertiary Care: Secondary

<b>Pre-pregnancy planning in women with epilepsy</b>		
1a	Do women with epilepsy have access to a pre-pregnancy counselling clinic in your centre?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes (epilepsy nurse clinic) <input type="checkbox"/> No
1b	If pre-pregnancy counselling is available in your centre, who delivers this/these services?  <b>(Please tick all that apply)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A neurologist/ epilepsy specialist doctor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A neurology specialist nurse/ epilepsy specialty nurse <input type="checkbox"/> An obstetrician with an interest in neurology/ a maternal-fetal medicine obstetrician <input type="checkbox"/> An obstetrician physician <input type="checkbox"/> An epilepsy specialist midwife
1c	If you have selected more than one practitioner in question 1b do they work separately or as part of a joint clinic?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> They work separately <input type="checkbox"/> They work together in a joint clinic
1d	How are patients transferred into the pre-pregnancy clinic?  <b>(Please tick all that apply)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> From their General Practitioner (GP) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> From their secondary care epilepsy service <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other – please state: Referrals from antenatal clinics/ midwives. Some patients self-refer into the Epilepsy service if they are already known to the service.

<b>Antenatal management</b>		
2	Do your patients have access to written information on the management of epilepsy in pregnancy?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
3a	Do women with epilepsy in your centre have access to regular planned antenatal care with a designated epilepsy care team?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
3b	If yes, which of the following healthcare professionals deliver the service?  <b>(Please tick all that apply)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> A neurologist/ epilepsy specialist doctor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A neurology specialist nurse/ epilepsy specialist nurse <input type="checkbox"/> An obstetrician with an interest in neurology/ a maternal-fetal medicine obstetrician  <input type="checkbox"/> An obstetric physician  <input type="checkbox"/> An epilepsy specialist midwife
3c	If you have selected more than one practitioner in questions 3b do they work separately or as part of a joint clinic?	<input type="checkbox"/> They work separately <input type="checkbox"/> They work together in a joint clinic
3d	How do women with epilepsy enter the service?  <b>(Please tick all that apply)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Identified at their booking appointment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> From their General Practitioner (GP) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> From their secondary care epilepsy service <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other – please state: Referred by Obstetrics
3e	If yes, how often are they reviewed in your epilepsy pregnancy clinic?	<input type="checkbox"/> Fortnight <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly <input type="checkbox"/> Bimonthly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Once per trimester

		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other – please state: Open access Epilepsy service clinics are provided for patients to call to seek further advice and information.
4	Are women with epilepsy risk stratified in your antenatal service?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
4b	If yes, how is the risk assessment done?	<input type="checkbox"/> Using a risk stratification tool : please state which <input type="checkbox"/> Other – please state:
4c	If so do those women considered 'higher risk' have a different care pathway to those considered 'lower risk'	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please detail how these pathways differ:

### Medication management

5	How does your service manage folic acid use in women with epilepsy?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recommend 5mg folic acid for three months prior to pregnancy and throughout pregnancy – Epilepsy Service <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recommend 5mg folic acid for three months prior to pregnancy and for the first trimester of pregnancy, then drop to 400mcg for the remainder of the pregnancy – Neurology Service <input type="checkbox"/> Recommend 400mcg for three months prior to pregnancy and for the first trimester of pregnancy <input type="checkbox"/> Recommend 400mcg for three months prior to pregnancy and throughout pregnancy <input type="checkbox"/> Other – please state:
6	How does your service manage titration of antiseizure medications in pregnancy?  <b>(Please tick all that apply)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Using drug levels <input type="checkbox"/> Using clinical symptoms <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Using both drugs levels and clinical symptoms <input type="checkbox"/> Other – please state:

7	Does your centre routinely measure drug levels in women with epilepsy?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
8a	Do you use long-acting benzodiazepines, such as clobazam, in the peripartum period for women with 'high risk' of seizures during this period?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
8b	If yes, what is your routine drug/dose/regimen	
8c	If yes, what are the criteria for women being considered 'high risk'?	

**Postpartum follow up for women with epilepsy**

9	How are women with epilepsy in your service followed up postpartum?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In a postpartum pregnancy clinic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In their usual epilepsy clinic <input type="checkbox"/> By their GP <input type="checkbox"/> There is no routine follow-up
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