

Reference:	FOI.11405.23
Subject:	Medical devices
Date of Request:	30 March 2023

Requested:

1. How many patients of Hywel Dda University Health Board are using or have been prescribed the following medical devices for use in their home?
 - a. Nebuliser
 - b. Oxygen concentrator
 - c. Suction
 - d. Ventilator or non-invasive ventilation (BiPAP or CPAP)
 - e. Feeding pump
 - f. Powered hospital bed
 - g. Electric wheelchair
 - h. Haemodialysis machine
 - i. Body drier
 - j. Chair lift
2. What, if any, rebate or refund schemes are made available by Hywel Dda University Health Board for patients in respect of the energy costs they incur running the above devices?

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all of the information requested, 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 all of the information being requested for question 1, the UHB would need to undertake a manual search of patient records to identify if any equipment has been issued to a patient, 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, we are required as a public authority, to provide advice and assistance so far as it is reasonable to individuals who have made a request under the FoIA. Therefore, the UHB provides the accessible information it holds for question 1 below.

Additionally, the UHB does not hold the information for points g, i and j.

Electric wheelchairs are provided by ALAS Posture and Mobility Centre, which is organised and managed by Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (CAVUHB). We therefore recommend that you redirect this part of your request to the Freedom of Information Team in CAVUHB who may be able to help you further. Contact details for PHW are as follows:-

FOI.Requests@wales.nhs.uk or alternatively, you can contact: Information Governance, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, Heath Park, Cardiff, CF14 4XW.

Furthermore, body driers and chair lifts are provided by the Local Authority (LA). We therefore recommend that you contact the Freedom of Information Teams within each LA in the UHB's footprint, who may be able to help you further with your enquiry. For ease, their details are set out below:-

Information & Data Protection Officer, Carmarthenshire County Council, County Hall, Carmarthen, SA31 1JP or by email foia@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Complaints & Freedom of Information Team, Ceredigion County Council, Canolfan Rheidol, Rhodfa Padarn, Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 3UE or by email foi@ceredigion.gov.uk

Information Governance Team, Pembrokeshire County Council, County Hall, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA61 1TP or by email FOI@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

Under Section 16 of the FoIA, the UHB provides the accessible information it holds for the medical devices listed at b, c, d, e and f, within the table below.

	Medical device	Number
b.	Oxygen concentrator	341
c.	Suction	4
d.	Ventilator or non-invasive ventilation (BiPAP or CPAP)	2,950
e.	Feeding pumps	205
f.	Powered hospital bed	3

Please note:- for point f, powered hospital beds are issued from the County Community Equipment Services, to which the UHB is a partner.

2. The UHB does not have a rebate or refund scheme for patients in respect of the energy costs they incur running the above devices.