

Reference:	FOI.4803.20
Subject:	Medical termination complications
Date of Request:	18 December 2020

Requested:

According to DHSC data ([Supplementary Analysis FOI 1250644](#)) there has only been 1 medical abortion complication recorded on HSA4 forms due to use of both abortion pills (mifepristone and misoprostol) at home between January and June.

These complications, as recorded on [HSA4](#) form include:

- a. Sepsis
- b. Haemorrhage
- c. Uterine perforation

1. Please can you tell me the number of women your hospital has treated with each of these complications between January 1st and December 1st this year?
2. Please can you also tell me how many women you treated in your hospitals between January 1st and December 1st of this year, for incomplete abortion or RPOC, specifying the number requiring Evacuation of Retained Products of Conception (ERPC) as well?

NB. This should include the treatment of women who may have received abortion pills from independent abortion providers before attending your hospital, as well as those who may have been prescribed abortion pills by your hospital (or hospitals within of your trust).

If it complies within the FOI limitations (eg. 18 hour time limit, cost, privacy etc) please also specify the following:

- What their complication was
- Whether they required a blood transfusion
- Whether they required antibiotics
- The data be broken into two sections: January 1st to June 1st and June 1st to December 1st
- 2019 data for comparison

We understand that some of these will be due to spontaneous abortion, and others by medical induced abortion. Unless clearly stated you need not distinguish between them.

We also understand that most cases of sepsis and haemorrhage will not be formally connected with abortion, however where the possibility of a medical abortion cannot be ruled out we ask that you include this data.

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 level” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. The “appropriate level” represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours or (2 ½ 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 requested information for question 2, the UHB would need to manually scrutinise the patient records, to identify any information that fulfils 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.

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 FOIA.

1. The UHB confirms that there have been no inpatient terminations that have been treated for sepsis, haemorrhage or uterine perforation, recorded on Datix, the UHB's incident reporting system, during the period requested.
2. The UHB provides the number of patients treated for the Evacuation of Retained Products of Conception (ERPC), across the UHB, during the periods 1 January to 31 May and 1 June to 30 November, for the calendar years 2019 and 2020 as requested.

2019	Number of ERPC
1 January to 31 May	45
1 June to 30 November	23

2020	Number of ERPC
1 January to 31 May	23
1 June to 30 November	12