

Reference:	FOI.13627.24
Subject:	Myeloma service provision
Date of Request:	23 January 2024

Requested:

As of 1 January 2024:

1. Total population size served by Health Board
2. Number of hospitals providing oncology services
3. Total number of consultant haematologists employees; specialist haematology registrars employed; consultant haematologists specialising in multiple myeloma; haematology clinical nurse specialists employed and multiple myeloma clinical nurse specialists.

During 2023 (1 January – 31 December), please provide the:

4. Total number of multiple myeloma (MM) cases diagnosed (Please state which code(s) were used)
 - a. If known, how many people were diagnosed with smouldering multiple myeloma?
5. How many in-person haematology-based consultation/telephone haematology-based consultations/ video haematology-based consultation took place for people diagnosed with MM?

During 2023 (1 January – 31 December):

6. Were multiple myeloma (MM) patients discussed/reviewed at a MM specific MDT or general haematology MDT?
7. How frequently did MDT meetings meet?
8. What percentage of MM patients diagnosed in 2023 were reviewed/discussed at a MDT?
9. Which professionals/disciplines are represented on MDT meetings for MM?
10. What supportive and palliative care services are available for MM patients?

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all of the information requested for questions 4a, 5 and 8, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the 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 data requested for questions 4a, and 5, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of Haematology patient records, to identify any information that would fulfil these parts of your request, as this information is not recorded centrally.

Additionally, for question 8, the UHB would be required to undertake a manual search of all MDT meetings to identify the information that would fulfil this part of your request, as again 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 information it holds below.

1. The UHB serves approximately three hundred and eighty-four thousand (384,000) people.
2. The UHB confirms it has four (4) hospitals that provide Oncology Services.
3. The UHB provides, within the table below, the current number of employees in the Haematology job roles requested.

Job role	Number
Consultant Haematologist	7
Specialist Haematology Registrars	4
Consultant Haematologists specialising in multiple myeloma	0
Haematology Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS)	6
Multiple Myeloma CNS	0
Clinical Fellow	1

4. The UHB confirms that one thousand nine hundred and nine (1,909) patients were diagnosed with MM, as is recorded on the UHB's Welsh Patient Administration System (WPAS), during the 2023 calendar year. The codes used were:
 - C900 – MM
 - C9041 - Plasma cell leukaemia
 - C903 - Solitary plasmacytoma.
 - a. Section 12 exemption applied.
5. Section 12 exemption applied.
6. The UHB confirms that MM patients were discussed at the General Clinic Haematology Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) meetings, during the 2023 calendar year.
7. The UHB confirms that the MDT meetings were held on a weekly basis each Friday.
8. Section 12 exemption applied. However, under Section 16, the UHB confirms that all those that were required to be discussed at the MDT were presented, as any patient can be discussed at the request of the Consultant.

9. The UHB provides the professionals that are represented at the MDTs for MM below:

- Consultant in:-
 - Haematology
 - Histopathology (visiting consultant)
 - Radiology (visiting consultant)
 - Oncology (visiting consultant or Senior Registrar)
- All available non consultant medical staff, if available on a Friday morning, including Associate Specialist, Specialty Doctor, Clinical Fellow and F1&2. Additionally, visiting non consultant staff attend from Swansea Bay University Health Board (SBUHB) as they host the local tertiary cancer centre.
- All available Haematology CNS staff, if available on a Friday morning.
- All available Haematology pharmacist staff, if available on a Friday morning.
- Cancer Services MDT coordinator

10. Palliative care is supported from within the Haematology Team, with input from Consultants and CNS. The UHB's Palliative Care Team is currently only taking referrals for end-of-life care due to staffing issues. However, end-of-life care planning is discussed with patients from within Clinical Haematology, and referral or consultation can always be sought if needed.