

Reference:	FOI.3768.20
Subject:	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Guidance NG6
Date of Request:	10 August 2020

Requested:

Request 1 – received 10 August 2020

1. Does the Hywel Dda Health Board have procedures or policies in place to ensure primary health and home care practitioners assess the heating needs of people who use their services at least once a year, as recommended by National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidance on *Excess winter deaths and illness and the health risks associated with cold homes (NG6)*?
2. Does the Hywel Dda Health Board record or audit compliance with the recommendation referenced in question 1 among primary health and home care practitioners?
3. Does the Hywel Dda Health Board have procedures or policies in place to ensure that, when a patient is discharged from a health or social care setting, an assessment is carried out into whether they are likely to be vulnerable to the cold and if action is needed to make their home warm enough for them to return to, as recommended by National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidance on *Excess winter deaths and illness and the health risks associated with cold homes (NG6)*?
4. Does the Hywel Dda Health Board record or audit compliance with the recommendation referenced in question 3?

Request 2 – received 11/08/2020

5. Does the Hywel Dda Health Board have a strategy in place to address the health consequences of cold homes, as recommended by National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidance on *Excess winter deaths and illness and the health risks associated with cold homes (NG6)*?
6. Has the Hywel Dda Health Board commissioned a single-point-of-contact health and housing referral service to help vulnerable people who live in cold homes, as recommended by National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidance on *Excess winter deaths and illness and the health risks associated with cold homes (NG6)*?

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) does not have policies in place specifically around the heating of an individual's home. However, within the initial assessment for a new patient engaging with the primary health and home care practitioners, there are questions relating to the patient's accommodation and the heating utilised within the home.
2. No, the UHB does not audit compliance with the recommendation detailed in question 1.
3. The UHB does not have policies in place surrounding the assessment of a patient's home prior to discharge, specifically looking at vulnerability to the cold. There is however a section within the discharge questionnaire around the heating available at the patient's home.

4. No, the UHB does not audit compliance with the recommendation detailed in question 3.
5. The UHB does not have a strategy in place to address the health consequences of cold homes.
6. The UHB has not commissioned a single point of contact health and housing referral service to help vulnerable people who live in cold homes.