

Reference:	FOI.21311.26
Subject:	New interventional procedures
Date of Request:	12 August 2026

Requested:

1. Do you currently have a policy, standard operating procedure, framework, governance document or equivalent process that applies to the introduction, approval, oversight or monitoring of:
 - New interventional procedures;
 - Novel surgical procedures;
 - Innovative procedures; or
 - Procedures undertaken for the first time within your organisation?
2. If such a document exists, please provide:
 - a. The title of the current document;
 - b. A copy of the document (PDF or Word format preferred);
 - c. The date on which the current version became effective, active, approved or implemented;
 - d. The date of the most recent review; and
 - e. The next scheduled review date (if applicable).
3. If your organisation uses a process that is not contained within a standalone policy document, please provide:
 - a. A description of the governance process used;
 - b. Any associated approval forms, checklists, committee terms of reference or governance documentation used to assess and approve new procedures.
4. Please indicate whether your process specifically addresses any/all of the below:
 - a. New surgical procedures;
 - b. New interventional radiology procedures;
 - c. New endoscopy procedures;
 - d. New cardiology procedures;
 - e. Use of new devices or implants; and
 - f. Procedures undertaken as part of innovation, research, service development or service transformation.
5. During the period 1 January 2023 to 1 January 2026, please provide:
 - a. The total number of applications, proposals or approvals for new, novel or innovative interventional procedures considered through this process;
 - b. The number approved;
 - c. The number declined or not approved;
 - d. Where available, a breakdown by speciality (for example surgical speciality, interventional radiology, cardiology, endoscopy or other specialities).
6. Please indicate:
 - a. Which committee, group or executive lead is responsible for approving new procedures within your organisation (title only).
7. Please state whether your organisation maintains a register, database, tracking system or log of approved new or innovative procedures and, if so, please provide:
 - a. A copy of the register or log (with any necessary redactions for personal information);

- b. The procedure name or title;
- c. The specialty involved;
- d. The date of approval;
- e. The current status (for example approved, piloted, implemented, suspended or withdrawn), where recorded.

8. Please indicate whether any new interventional procedures, surgical innovations or first-in-organisation procedures have been approved through an expedited, emergency or exceptional approval route (EG Chairs action) since 1 January 2023 and, if so, provide:
 - a. The procedure name;
 - b. The approving body; and
 - c. The year of approval.

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that it has two (2) policies relating to the introduction and ongoing oversight of new interventional procedures.
- 2a. & b. The UHB provides copies of the two (2) policies, at the following attachments:
 - Attachment 1 - Policy 012 - New Interventional Procedures Policy.
 - Attachment 2 - Policy 013 - Management of NICE and other National Guidance Policy .
- 2c. & e. Please see Attachments 1 and 2.
3. Not applicable.
- 4a. – e. Please see Attachment 1.
- 4f. The UHB's Research and Development (R&D) team have a suite of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) which cover everything relating to research. Additionally, the R&D team adhere to protocols and SOPs provided by the sponsors of research studies that are undertaken in the UHB.
5. The UHB provides the information requested for the 2023 to 2025 calendar years within the table below .

No.	Question	Answer
a.	Number of applications	5
b.	Number approved	5
c.	Number declined	0
d.	Specialty	x1 Surgical x1 Gynaecology x1 Radiology x2 Urology

6. The name of the group responsible for approving new procedures is the Effective Clinical Practice Advisory Panel (ECPAP).

7a. The UHB does not hold the information exactly as requested, as it does not have a specific register, database or tracking system. Information relating to new or innovative procedures is held in individual folders within Microsoft Teams.

7b. – f. The UHB provides the information requested within the table below.

Procedure name/title	Specialty	Date approved	Current status
Foam Sclerotherapy	Scheduled care	January 2023	Approved and implemented
Extreme Hypo fractionated Radiotherapy and Fiducial markers	Urology	January 2023	Approved and implemented
Laprascopic Helium Plasma Coagulation for treatment of Endometriosis (Helica Device)	Gynaecology	June 2024	Approved. However, currently suspended due to procurement difficulties
Contrast Enhanced Mamography	Radiology	October 2024	Approved and implemented
Local Anaesthetic Transperineal Biopsy of Prostate (LATP)	Urology	May/June 2024	Approved and implemented

8. Yes, the UHB has approved new interventional procedures through an expedited, emergency or exceptional approval route, during the 2023 to 2025 calendar years.

- a. The procedure name is Ultrasound-guided foam sclerotherapy for varicose veins.
- b. The procedure was approved by the triumvirate team, Deputy Medical Director, which was then taken to the Scheduled Care Governance Group and final approval at the ECPAP.
- c. The procedure was approved in 2023.