

Reference:	FOI.16742.25
Subject:	Ophthalmology services and IT systems
Date of Request:	4 March 2025

Requested:

Ophthalmology Department & IT Record Systems:

1. Does your Trust have an ophthalmology department and/or provide ophthalmology clinics?
2. If so, what is the name of the principal IT record system used to document results from patient consultations within ophthalmology?

Imaging Capabilities & System Integration:

3. Does the principal IT system allow clinicians to view images from scans conducted during a clinic visit?
4. Are there any types of medical images that cannot be imported into this principal IT system? If so:
 - a. What is the name of the IT programme used by clinicians to view these images?
 - b. What is the name of the scan/modality that generates these images?

Data Integration with National Systems:

5. Does the principal IT system integrate with the NHS Spine or other national patient record systems (e.g., OpenEyes, Medisoft, Epic)?
6. Does the system support the exchange of structured data with other NHS Trusts or external healthcare providers?

Patient Access & Communication:

7. Does the system allow patients to access their ophthalmology records, including images, via the NHS App or another patient portal?
8. Are there any restrictions on how imaging data can be shared with patients and external providers?

Image Storage & Viewing Capabilities:

9. What is the storage capacity and retention policy for ophthalmology-related imaging within the IT system?
10. If images are not viewable within the principal IT system, does the Trust use a separate PACS (Picture Archiving and Communication System) for ophthalmology imaging?

Future IT Developments & Interoperability:

11. Is the Trust planning any upgrades or changes to its ophthalmology IT infrastructure in the next five years?
12. Are there known interoperability challenges that affect the transfer of ophthalmology data within the Trust or between NHS organizations?

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that it does have an Ophthalmology Department and clinics.
2. The principal IT document recording system used by the Ophthalmology Department is Medisoft.
3. The Medisoft document recording system does allow clinicians to view images from scans conducted during a clinic visit.
4. The UHB confirms that some types of medical images cannot be imported into the Medisoft document recording system.
 - a. The UHB's principal system used to import and view the various types of scans is Imagenet. The other systems used are Forum Viewer and Medinet.
 - b. There are multiple scans for multiple conditions, which include Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT), Fields and Optos.
5. The Medisoft document recording system takes a demographic feed from the Welsh Patient Administration System (WPAS) only.
6. The Medisoft document recording system does not support the exchange of structured data with other NHS bodies or external healthcare providers.
7. The Medisoft document recording system does not allow patients to access their ophthalmology records, including images, via the NHS App or another patient portal.
8. The UHB confirms that it has strict governance in place that does not allow images to be shared with external providers. Patients can request access to their health records and images through the UHB's Access to Health Records Team. Electronic images are not provided; images would be printed.
9. The UHB provides the current storage capacity of its ophthalmology-related imaging IT systems below:

System	Capacity
Medisight	2.2 TB
Optos	1 TB

However, storage capacity can change, should there be requirement.

Retention is dependent upon the images and the policy in place at the time they were taken. Additionally, the type of equipment in use can dictate the length of time the images need to be kept.

10. The UHB does use a separate Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS) for Ophthalmology imaging if images are not viewable within Imagenet.

11. The UHB is working with Digital Health and Care Wales (DHCW) to develop an All Wales Ophthalmology system, to enable electronic requests and records that can be shared between Health Boards across NHS Wales, where required.
12. There are no specific challenges that affect the transfer of Ophthalmology data within the UHB.