

Reference:	FOI.12892.23
Subject:	Osteoporosis
Date of Request:	16 October 2023

Requested:

Please provide the details of secondary care treatments for osteoporosis from 2019.

1. What guidelines are used for deciding treatment?
2. Please provide patient numbers and cost of treatment per patient for Teriparatide, denosumab and Zoledronic Acid from 2019. (only for treatment of osteoporosis) and if possible please indicate whether it is a first treatment or repeat.
3. If possible please breakdown the figures for each hospital in the health board.
4. Do all hospitals have a Fracture Liaison Service and a dedicated nurse? If not please give reasons as to why not?
5. Please provide a breakdown of numbers of staff members working in the osteoporosis service at each hospital.

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 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 information for the specific conditions requested in questions 2 and 3, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all identified prescriptions and cross reference with the patient’s medical record to identify the reason for treatment, 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.

However, under section 16 of the FoIA, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance and therefore, provides the accessible information it holds below.

1. The UHB confirms that its Secondary Care service offers all treatments that are recommended by national guidance for the management of Osteoporosis; guidance is taken from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), National Osteoporosis Guidelines Group (NOGG) and also refers to Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN).
2. In addition to the Section 12 exemption applied, a Section 21 exemption of the FoIA has been applied as some of this information is already within the public domain and the information is accessible by another means. The drug tariff is available on the NHS Business Services Authority (BSA) website. For ease, a link has been provided below:

[Drug Tariff | NHSBSA](#)

Furthermore, under Section 16 of the FoIA, the UHB provides, within the table below, the total number of patients treated with the requested medications, as recorded on the UHB’s Pharmacy and Homecare systems, during the 2019 to 2022 calendar years and 1 January to 31 October 2023.

Calendar year	Denosumab	Teriparatide	Zoledronic Acid
2019	427	252	710
2020	364	278	573
2021	396	178	651
2022	416	268	800
2023 (1 January to 31 October)	418	351	733

3. Again, in addition to the application of Section 12 of the FoIA, the UHB provides under Section 16, within the tables overleaf, the number of patients treated with the requested medications identified in question 2, for its four (4) acute hospitals; Bronglais General Hospital (BGH), Glangwili General Hospital (GGH), Prince Philip hospital (PPH) and Withybush General Hospital (WGH), as recorded on the UHB’s Pharmacy system, and the number of patients recorded on the UHB’s Homecare system, during the 2019 to 2022 calendar years and 1 January to 31 October 2023.

BGH			
Calendar year	Denosumab	Teriparatide	Zoledronic Acid
2019	56	*	368
2020	58	0	288
2021	101	0	376
2022	84	0	478
2023 (1 January to 31 October)	83	0	261

GGH			
Calendar year	Denosumab	Teriparatide	Zoledronic Acid
2019	197	0	89
2020	148	0	78
2021	106	0	77
2022	114	0	105
2023 (1 January to 31 October)	151	0	176

PPH			
Calendar year	Denosumab	Teriparatide	Zoledronic Acid
2019	109	0	139
2020	108	0	126
2021	137	0	97
2022	141	0	108
2023 (1 January to 31 October)	94	0	82

WGH			
Calendar year	Denosumab	Teriparatide	Zoledronic Acid

2019	65	21	114
2020	50	*	81
2021	50	0	101
2022	74	0	109
2023 (1 January to 31 October)	90	0	214

Homecare system			
Calendar year	Denosumab	Teriparatide	Zoledronic Acid
2019	0	228	0
2020	0	275	0
2021	*	178	0
2022	*	268	0
2023 (1 January to 31 October)	0	351	0

Where the figures in the tables above have been replaced with an asterisk (*), the UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of patients, due to the low numbers of cases (less than 5), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. The UHB is therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the FoIA. This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)/UK General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles of the UK GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore, there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the DPA and UK GDPR define personal data as data that relates to a living individual who can be identified solely from that data or from that data and other information, which is in the possession of the data controller.

4. The UHB confirms that it currently only offers a Fracture Liaison Service (FLS) in Bronglais General Hospital (BGH), which employs one (1) part-time Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS). Osteoporosis patients across other hospital sites are seen in the outpatients' department.

However, the FLS is developing and progressing with the implementation of a FLS across its four (4) acute hospitals, detailed in response to question 3.

5. The UHB provides, the number of staff that provide an osteoporosis service, by hospital, within the table below.

Hospital	Job role
BGH	x1 Care of the Elderly (COTE) Consultant x1 Part-time CNS
GGH	x1 COTE Consultant
PPH	x1 COTE Consultant x1 Part-time GP
WGH	x1 COTE Consultant x1 Part-time Specialty Doctor

Please note:- Osteoporosis patients are seen by the above Doctors in their own clinics and not in clinics specifically for osteoporosis.