

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.466.19
<b>Subject:</b>	Out of area referrals
<b>Date of Request:</b>	3 April 2019

### **Requested**

- All references below to “policies etc” are references to policies/procedures/guidelines/ codes of practice (whether internal or external, published or unpublished, formal or informal).
  - All references below to “decisions etc” are references to decisions, taking particular or any action/not taking particular or any action.
1. Policies for decisions about referrals. I am requesting a list of all policies etc (see definition above) that Hywel Dda considers in relation to:
    - a) Making decisions etc (see definition above) relating to requests for out of area referrals.
    - b) Making decisions etc relating to requests for reviews of such decisions etc.
    - c) Making decisions etc relating to complaints relating to such decisions etc.
  2. Policies etc for requests for advice/ assistance in relation to out of area referrals. I am requesting a list of all policies etc that Hywel Dda considers in responding to any questions/requests (short of formal requests for referral referred to above), from healthcare professionals and others, relating to possible requests for out of area referrals. Please include:
    - a) All policies etc considered when a healthcare professional seeks advice or other assistance from Hywel Dda in relation to the possibility of making an out of area referral.
  3. Requests, decisions, complaints etc. I am requesting:
    - a) Data on the rates and nature of requests for out of area referrals in the last 3 years in relation to the following:
      - Neuro-ophthalmology (and not just ophthalmology and neurology)
      - Polymerase III blood tests and autoimmune related blood tests more generally
      - Nailfold capillarscopy
      - RNHRD (Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases)
      - Rheumatology
      - ENT
      - Diagnostic tests and/or diagnosis related opinions at any UK autoimmune centres of excellence
    - b) Data (for the last 3 years) on rates of acceptance/rejection of each of the above listed (at (3) (a) (i)-(vii)) types of request for referral. Please break down this data where possible into:
      - Those requests rejected and not later accepted
      - Those requests agreed on initial application
      - Those requests agreed after request for a review

- Those requests agreed after a complaint
- c) Reasons for/nature of these acceptances/rejections (covering the last 3 years) for each type of request (at (4) (a) (i)-(vi)). Please break down this data where possible into:
- Those requests rejected and not later accepted
  - Those requests agreed on initial application
  - Those requests agreed after request for a review
  - Those requests agreed after a complaint
- d) Data on rates and the nature of requests for review and complaints in relation to the above mentioned types of request (mentioned at (4) (a) (i)-(vi)) (covering the last three years).

**Response:**

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) has provided copies of the policies referred to when considering requests for out of area referrals. The policy titles are listed below.
  - NHS Wales Prior Approval Policy
  - Patient Access – Elective Care Policy
  - Welsh patients accessing treatment in countries of the European Economic Area – AW procedure
2. Please see response to question 1.
3. Attachment 1 provides the details of requests for out of area referrals within the requested timeframe including those approved, declined and reviewed following request.