

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.8708.22
<b>Subject:</b>	Policies/procedures for heart related conditions
<b>Date of Request:</b>	14 April 2022

**Requested:**

1. Do you have a policy and/or written procedures for how your trust responds to patients presenting at A&E with chest pain or suspected heart related conditions?
2. Do you have a policy and/or written procedures for managing suspected aortic dissection?
3. Do you have a policy and/or written procedures for managing aortic dissection once diagnosed? Please provide a copy of these
4. If you have a policy or procedures in place regarding aortic dissection, what is the trust's process for ensuring that all clinical staff are made aware and
5. If you provide training, please provide a copy of the training material. Do you have any training / induction to ensure that all staff are familiar with it?

**Response:**

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) provides a copy of its 'Initial Management of Acute Coronary Syndrome Guideline' policy, at Attachment 1. The policy was due to be updated in November 2021, and a revised version is currently in draft, awaiting approval. The current policy does contain a list of conditions that may present with symptoms suggestive of a coronary event, which includes aortic dissection, but does not contain any guidance as to the investigation and management of acute aortic dissection.

When a patient attends the UHB's Accident and Emergency Departments (A&E) with chest pain, the national Manchester Triage System is used. For ease of reference, a link has been included below.

[Course: Emergency Triage Hub \(triagenet.net\)](https://www.triagenet.net)

Furthermore, the following Standard Operating Procedures are used:

- Patients attending A&E as a walk in with chest pain are alerted to the triage nurse by reception and receive an immediate electrocardiogram (ECG) to identify those with ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) and/or any other time critical illness that presents with chest pain and shows up on an ECG.
- Patients arriving by ambulance will usually have already had an ECG.
- Patients are then assessed by a Clinician and suspected ischaemic heart problems are assessed in line with the Acute Coronary Syndrome Guidelines. Other types of heart problem would be managed depending on the diagnosis.

2. The UHB confirms that it adheres to the Heart Research UK 'Think Aorta' national guidelines. For ease of reference, a link to the website has been attached:

[THINK AORTA campaign update \(heartresearch.org.uk\)](https://www.heartresearch.org.uk)

3. The UHB regrets to inform you that it does not hold the information requested. Patients diagnosed with aortic dissection are referred to the Vascular Department in Morriston Hospital, Swansea Bay University Health Board (SBUHB) and are managed according to the specialist advice from them.

Therefore, we recommend that you redirect this part of your request to the Freedom of Information Team at SBUHB who may be able to help you further. The contact details are as follows:

[FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk) or alternatively, you can contact: FOIA Team, Swansea Bay University Health Board, Health Board Headquarters, 1 Talbot Gateway, Port Talbot, SA12 7BR.

4. & 5. The UHB does not hold a policy or procedure specific to aortic dissection. However, following an Ombudsman report in September 2020, all junior doctors were provided with formal teaching and all clinical staff were sent an email containing reminders about aortic dissection pain, a 'Think Aorta' campaign poster and an educational video. A copy of the poster has been provided at Attachment 2 and a link to the video has been provided below:

<https://player.vimeo.com/video/337267683>