

Reference:	FOI.6254.21
Subject:	Prioritisation for in-patient treatment
Date of Request:	16 June 2021

Requested:

CONTEXT: As NHS resources were so limited during the COVID-19 pandemic, it is known that certain people were prioritised over others for in-patient treatment. It is also known that certain people and groups were subject to blanket and/or non-consensual 'Do Not Resuscitate' orders.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting the following information;

1. What were the criteria for the prioritisation of treatment? (e.g. age, chronic health conditions, neurodevelopmental disorders, etc.)
2. What hospitals made the choice to prioritise certain groups over others?
3. Were patients informed that there was prioritisation for certain groups?
 - a. If so, were those who were to be NOT a priority informed that they were as such?
 - b. How many people, irrespective of whether they went on to receive treatment and/or recover, were to be of lesser priority than others?
 - c. How many people, who were seen as a lesser priority for treatment, died?
4. Were there blanket DNR orders for patients in certain groups? (e.g. those with chronic health conditions, those with neurodevelopmental disorders, the elderly etc.)
 - a. What groups were subject to these blanket DNR orders?
 - b. If so, were these groups informed of the hospitals choice to place them under DNR orders?
 - c. Did any of these patients consent to the use of DNR orders on them?
 - d. How many people subject to these DNR orders went on to die?

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that no clinical members of the UHB's Resuscitation Groups have reported any circumstances whereby in-patient treatment was prioritised according to certain patient groups.
2. Not applicable.
3. Not applicable.
4. The UHB confirms that there are no blanket Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (DNACPR) orders across the UHB, nor were such orders in place earlier on in the pandemic. Reminders were issued to clinicians to continue to follow the All Wales DNACPR policy.