

Reference:	FOI.393.19
Subject:	Procedures of clinical value
Date of Request:	25 March 2019

Requested

Under the Freedom of Information Act, please could you provide answers to the following?

1. Do you have a list of procedures of limited clinical value?
 - a) If yes, does this currently include either a) a multidisciplinary Tier 3 or b) a Tier 4 weight management service?
 - b) When were each of these added to the list of procedures of limited clinical value?
2. How many a) multidisciplinary Tier 3 and b) Tier 4 weight management services have you decommissioned in each of the past 5 calendar years?
 - a. Please provide details of these.
3. Please list all the a) multidisciplinary Tier 3 and b) Tier 4 obesity services that you have commissioned in the past calendar 5 years.
4. How many patients have received either a) a multidisciplinary Tier 3 or b) a Tier 4 weight management service in each of the past 5 calendar years in your CCG area?

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) does have a list of 'Interventions Not Normally Undertaken' (INNU); this does not include a multidisciplinary Tier 3 or Tier 4 weight management service.
2. The UHB has not decommissioned any multidisciplinary Tier 3 or 4 weight management services within the last five calendar years.
3. Tier 3 obesity services are delivered in-house by a multi-disciplinary team of specialist dietitians and psychologists with medical support. Tier 4 referrals are made to the Welsh Institute of Metabolic and Obesity Surgery (WIMOS) hosted by Swansea Bay University Health Board.
4. The table below provides the number of referrals made to the UHB's Tier 3 weight management service within the last five financial years.

Financial Year	Referrals
2014/15	352
2015/16	500
2016/17	544
2017/18	581
2018/19	409

The UHB is unable to provide the number of referrals to Tier 4 services within the last five years, as the referral process prior to 2015 did not allow for the information to be collated centrally. It is estimated that the cost of answering this part of your request would exceed the “appropriate level” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. The “appropriate level” represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours or (2 ½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

In order to provide the information requested, the UHB would be required to conduct a manual search of all referrals received by the Dietetics department within the requested timeframe. The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, 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, in 2015 a gatekeeper role was introduced to facilitate the referral process. Therefore, under the UHB’s section 16 obligation to provide advice and assistance, the UHB can confirm that 16 referrals have been made to the Tier 4 service at Morriston hospital between 1 January 2016 and 30 April 2019.