

Reference:	FOI.6006.21
Subject:	Skin health services and spina bifida
Date of Request:	14 May 2021

Requested:

I was wondering if it were possible to find out more about the skin health services (cellulitis) that exists at the Health Board and the pathways for patients with spina bifida with skin conditions (i.e., being referred to, during and after treatment).

So I would like to know the following if possible:

1. What do you offer / do in terms of Skin Care Services for cellulitis?
2. Are the podiatry services linked to the healthcare services provided?
3. How do you go about treating cellulitis of varying severity?
4. How do you go about treating cellulitis?
5. What are the outreach services like how can patients access them?
6. Rehab, (after surgery) criteria for accessing this?
7. Do they offer paediatrics or adult services or both?
8. What are the referral pathways? – is self-referral possible?

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) operates in accordance with the national guidance issued by the Lymphoedema Network Wales (LNW), as detailed within Attachments 1 and 2.

LNW also encourage families and patients to watch a short series of Lymphoedema videos as part of their treatment plans. The videos have been created by Lymphoedema and NHS Healthcare Professionals, with the aim of helping patients and their families to learn more about Lymphoedema and how to manage their diagnosis.

The videos can be accessed via the link below:

www.medic.video/h-lymph

2. Podiatry services within the UHB are a separate service to Lymphoedema. However, the services do work collaboratively and if a patient is believed to need support from the Podiatry service, then this can be accessed via a clinician or self-referral.
3. The UHB follows guidance issued by LNW for the treatment of Cellulitis. Attachment 3 provides a flowchart which details the treatment pathway.
4. The UHB provides patients with an information leaflet which explains more about Cellulitis and self-care, to try and prevent relapse, a copy of which is provided at Attachment 4. The UHB also provides a copy of the antibiotic treatment pathway recommended by LNW at Attachment 5.

5. The UHBs Lymphoedema Service is a community based service referred into by either acute or primary care. Where a patient requires treatment or support from other secondary or acute care services, the Lymphoedema Service has in-reach pathways in place to enable referral.
6. Where a patient requires rehabilitation and support from the Lymphoedema Service following surgery, the treating clinician can refer the patient into the service.
7. Both Paediatric and Adult patients are treated by the service.
8. Initial referral for all patients must be received from a primary or secondary care clinician. Where a patient has previously been treated by the service and discharged, he/she is able to self-refer back into the service.