

Reference:	FOI.13791.24
Subject:	Sudden cardiac deaths and devices
Date of Request:	12 February 2024

Your request and our response

We kindly are requesting information on your institution's post-mortem procedures related to patients with cardiac devices and have attached a short questionnaire.

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) provides the information within the table below, as requested.

Q1	How many patients pass through your morgue each year?	2,150, during the 2023 calendar year.
Q2	Approximately what proportion of these have a cardiac implantable device in situ? (PPM, ICD, ILR)	< 10% have implantable devices.
Q3	Does the hospital morgue also take deaths from the community, or is it for inpatients only?	Yes, community deaths are brought in, at the request of HM Coroner for Post-Mortem (PM).
Q4	Is there a cardiac physiology department on site at your hospital?	YES
Q5	If a patient has a cardiac device in situ, is it routine practice for a device check to be undertaken after death?	NO
Q6a	If yes, is the information regarding rhythm/therapies at the time of death routinely added to the patient's notes/hospital record?	Not applicable
Q6b	If yes, is the information regarding rhythm/therapies at the time of death routinely passed on to the clinical team?	Not applicable
Q7	If no and this is not routine practice, are there ever exceptions to this, i.e., occasions where a post-death device check is requested by the clinical team?	YES
Q8	If yes, please elaborate (for example, how often or under what circumstances this occurs).	There may be rare occasions where a post death device check may be requested as part of an authorised PM examination on behalf of HM Coroner (if case history indicates a requirement to do so).