

Reference:	FOI.15281.24
Subject:	Tuberculosis (TB) and oxygen therapy
Date of Request:	16 September 2024

Requested:

Oxygen therapy

1. How many patients in your Health Board are currently using oxygen therapy for a respiratory condition?
2. Percentage of patients considered for long term oxygen therapy have had a standard assessment in line with British Thoracic Society Guidance?

Biologic therapy

3. What percentage of those with severe or uncontrolled asthma have been prescribed biologic therapy?

Tuberculosis

4. Who are your clinical and corporate leads for Tuberculosis?
5. Can you confirm there is a plan at Health Board level for managing an outbreak of TB?
6. Please provide a copy of the plan for managing an outbreak of TB.

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that it currently has five hundred (500) patients using oxygen therapy for a respiratory condition.
2. The UHB confirms that 100% of new patients referred for an oxygen assessment are offered an appointment within the British Thoracic Society (BTS) guidelines. All patients are followed up according to individual need, with an annual review as a minimum.
3. The UHB confirms that 47% of its patients with severe or uncontrolled asthma have been prescribed biologics.
4. The UHB confirms that its various leads are as follows:
 - Clinical lead for Tuberculosis (TB) in adults - Dr Gareth Collier, Respiratory Consultant
 - Clinical lead for TB in children - Dr. Alzbeta Kolenova
 - Nursing lead - Kelly Jones, Clinical Nurse Specialist
 - Public Health Directorate lead – Megan Harries, Public Health Consultant.
5. The UHB confirms that it operates in accordance with the Communicable Disease Outbreak Plan for Wales should there be an outbreak of TB. To be considered as an outbreak, for any disease, two (2) or more epidemiologically linked cases must be identified. Once an outbreak has been determined, an Outbreak Control Team (OCT) is established and chaired by the Consultant in Communicable Disease Control. Members of the OCT include a clinical team,

respiratory consultant and a specialist nurse, microbiology clinical scientists and Public Health officers.

The OCT meetings determine the nature of the outbreak, and the measures required to investigate and bring the outbreak under control, in line with established Public Health Wales (PHW) guidance and evidence. Each outbreak is different and requires a plan specific to the unique circumstances. The OCT chair produces a report when the outbreak is considered to have concluded, which summarises the outbreak and any learning points discovered during the outbreak.

6. The UHB has applied a Section 21 exemption as the requested information is already accessible within the public domain. The Communicable Disease Outbreak Plan for Wales is available on the PHW website. For ease, a link has been provided below, which will take you directly to the relevant web page:

phw.nhs.wales/topics/the-communicable-disease-outbreak-plan-for-wales/