

Reference:	FOI.17678.25
Subject:	Vascular access devices
Date of Request:	2 July 2025

Requested:

Information requested in respect of Peripherally Inserted Central Catheters (PICC):

1. Volume inserted in calendar year 2024?
2. What proportion are inserted:
 - a. Under fluoroscopy?
 - b. At the bed side?
 - c. Other?

Information requested in respect of Midline Catheters:

3. Volume inserted in calendar year 2024?
4. What proportion are inserted:
 - a. Under fluoroscopy?
 - b. At the bed side?
 - c. Other?

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) is unable to provide you with all of the information requested, as it is estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the “appropriate limit” as stated in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The “appropriate limit” 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 you with all of the data requested for question 2, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all patient records of those who had Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (PICC) placements, to identify how they were administered to fulfil this part of your request, as this information is not recorded centrally.

However, under section 16 of the FoIA, the UHB has a duty to provide advice and assistance. Therefore, the UHB provides the accessible information it holds for question 1 below.

The UHB is also unable to provide you with the number of patients requested for questions 3 and 4, due to the low number of cases (less than 5), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. Therefore, the UHB is withholding these details under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA).

This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)/UK General Data Protection Regulations, as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles of the UK GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore, there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the DPA and UK GDPR define personal data as data that relates to a living individual who can be identified solely from that data or from that data and other information, which is in the possession of the data controller.

1. The UHB confirms that two hundred and fifty-two (252) inpatients had a PICC placement, as recorded on the UHBs Welsh Patient Administration System (WPAS), during the 2024 calendar year.