

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.12994.23
<b>Subject:</b>	Wound dressings
<b>Date of Request:</b>	29 October 2023

**Requested:**

1. The types or brands of wound dressings currently used by Hywel Dda University Health Board.
2. The sources of purchase for these wound dressings, including the names of suppliers or vendors.
3. Whether these wound dressings contain chitosan as one of their components or ingredients.
4. If available, any data or studies the hospital has regarding the efficacy of these chitosan-based dressings.

**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 and the Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The “appropriate limit” represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours (or 2½ working days) in determining whether the UHB holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

In order to provide you with the data requested, the UHB would need to undertake a manual trawl of all wound dressings currently used across the UHB, to identify those that contain Chitosan as one of its components or ingredients.

The UHB is therefore applying an exemption under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), 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, 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 below.

1. & 2. The UHB confirms that it sources its wound dressings via the All Wales NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership (NWSSP) Procurement list and also via its Pharmacy list locally. The two (2) different lists are used as not all sizes/quantities are available via the All Wales Procurement list. Therefore, the UHB provides the types and source of purchase for its wound dressings, as follows:

- Attachment 1 - Wound Dressing Formulary
- Attachment 2 - Pharmacy product list
- Attachment 3 - NWSSP Procurement product list

Please note:- The formulary is based on the All Wales Dressing Formulary and is applicable to Primary and Secondary Care; adherence is monitored, and the formulary enforced.

3. A section 12 exemption has been applied to the pharmacy products. However, under Section 16 of the FoIA, the UHB can confirm that no products on the All Wales Procurement list contain Chitosan as a component or ingredient.
4. The UHB regrets to inform you that it does not hold the information requested.