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WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd
Addysgu Powys
Powys Teaching
Health Board

Information Governance Team
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Bronllys Hospital
Bronllys
Brecon
Powys LD3 0LY
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Tel: 01686 252159/01874 442071

Our ref: IG/FOI/23.R.305

5 October 2023

Sent via email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write further to your request for information which was received on 24 August 2023, to confirm, in accordance with S.1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, that Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) does hold the information that you require.

For ease of reference your request is set out below and our response follows:

Your Freedom of Information (FOI) Request:

I would like to make an application under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for the following information regarding the misuse of the drug Ketamine which is used medically for induction and maintenance of anaesthesia.

1. How many patients have you admitted in the past five years suffering from the effects of Ketamine misuse? (Please provide an annual breakdown)
2. Of these patients, how many were under:
 - a. 25 years old?
 - b. 50 years old?

(Please provide an annual breakdown):

3. Over the past five years, how many patients have been found suffering from 'Ketamine bladder syndrome'?
4. How many patients using Ketamine have been referred to your Substance Misuse Services in the past five years? (Please provide an annual breakdown)

Pencadlys
Tŷ Glasbury, Ysbyty Bronllys,
Aberhonddu, Powys LD3 0LU
Ffôn: 01874 711661



Headquarters
Glasbury House, Bronllys Hospital
Brecon, Powys LD3 0LU
Tel: 01874 711661

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth Gymraeg
Bwrdd Iechyd Addysgu Powys yw enw gweithredd Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol
Addysgu Powys



We welcome correspondence in Welsh
Powys Teaching Health Board is the operational name of
Powys Teaching Local Health Board

5. What is the current waiting time for inpatient treatment at a Detoxification and Rehabilitation facility for drug and alcohol abuse in your Health Board Area, funded by the NHS?

6. Does your Health Board have a specialist urology clinic? If so, where?

Powys Response:

Q1, 2 & 4 Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) is unable to provide the breakdown as requested due to the low numbers of individuals involved (5 or less). PTHB believes there is a potential risk of individuals being able to be identified, when considered with other information already available within the public domain, if this was disclosed. Therefore, the data is classed as personal data as defined under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018 and its disclosure would be contrary to the data protection principles and constitute unfair and unlawful processing in regard to Articles 5, 6, and 9 of GDPR. We are therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This exemption is absolute and therefore there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

Q3 No patients during the last five years have been found to be suffering from ketamine bladder syndrome.

Q4 Please see our response above. However, under Section 16 of the FOI Act and our duty to advise and assist, PTHB can confirm that the combined total for the number of patients using Ketamine who have been referred to a Substance Misuse Service in the past five years is 23.

Q5 Inpatient detoxification is not provided in PTHB and is usually spot purchased from the inpatient detoxification ward in University Hospital Llandough, Cardiff.

To address the part of the question regarding 'funded by the NHS', the NHS does not directly fund rehabilitation as highlighted below, but usually such a placement is agreed within a month. It is used for people who are unable to undertake a community detoxification or those that require short stay medical support during detoxification with trained clinicians providing care. Longer term residential rehabilitation (usually up to 16 weeks) may or may not include a medically supported detoxification programme, as this is dependent on the criteria of the chosen rehabilitation centre. Not all provide detoxification and it would be expected that detoxification, either inpatient or community, be undertaken prior to the placement start. The Welsh Government provides Tier 4 residential rehabilitation funding to area planning boards. The funding for placements is considered by the Tier 4 panel and the panel meets monthly. In essence, we can agree a placement in a month, however the person may still have to attend the rehabilitation for a suitability assessment prior to the placement being agreed by the chosen rehabilitation and this timescale is out of our control.

Q6 Due to the rural and sparsely populated nature of Powys, our residents access their acute and specialist hospital services from neighbouring health boards in Wales and neighbouring NHS Trusts in England. This means that PTHB does not offer specialist urology clinics within the county, and these will

be offered to Powys residents at neighbouring hospitals. In addition, we work in partnership with neighbouring hospitals to offer general urology consultant led clinics at the following sites:

- Brecon War Memorial Hospital
- Llandrindod Wells Memorial Hospital
- Ystradgynlais Community Hospital

Should you need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

If you are dissatisfied, with the way your request has been dealt with by PTHB, you have the right to request a review in which case you should write to:

Chief Executive
Powys Teaching Health Board Headquarters
Glasbury House
Bronllys Hospital
Bronllys
Brecon
Powys LD3 0LY

If you are still dissatisfied at the end of the review, you may complain to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at the following address:

Information Commissioner's Office - Wales
2nd Floor,
Churchill House,
Churchill Way,
Cardiff, CF10 2HH
Tel: 029 2067 8400 Fax 029 2067 8399
www.ico.org.uk twitter.com/iconews

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yng Nghymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb y fath ohebiaeth yng Nghymraeg ac ni fydd hyn yn arwain at oedi. We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. We will reply to such correspondence in Welsh and this will not lead to a delay.

Yours sincerely



Joy Garfitt
Director of Operations/ Director of Community & Mental Health