

Our ref: IG/FOI/24.R.077

20 February 2024

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 9 February 2024, to confirm, in accordance with S.1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, that Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) does not hold the information that you require.

Your Freedom of Information (FOI) Request:

I am writing to request your assistance with an open government request relating to your joint infection services according to the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please kindly complete the below questions.

Questions for clinical team(s):

1. In 2022/2023 (or for the last recorded year with data available), in your Trust/Health Board, how many of the following did you record?

- a) Paediatric patients with suspected septic arthritis in native joints
- b) Paediatric patients with suspected prosthetic joint infection (PJI)
- c) Adult patients with suspected septic arthritis in native joints
- d) Adult patients with suspected prosthetic joint infection (PJI)

2. Does your Trust/Health Board follow or have any locally developed/adapted guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of septic arthritis in native joints and prosthetic joint infections in both adults and paediatric patients?

- a) If yes, please state which guidelines have been adapted and please provide a copy of your local guidelines.

3. When investigating suspected septic arthritis in native joints in both paediatric and adult patients, is a synovial fluid sample collected before or after antibiotics are administered and commenced?

- a) Is joint aspirate collected in ED/triage, Assessment unit, inpatient ward, or theatre?
- b) Who typically performs the procedure and collects the sample? (Please specify job role)
- c) Does the above differ for suspected prosthetic joint infections? If yes, please clarify how this differs.

4. What clinician would typically manage paediatric patients with suspected septic arthritis in native joints? (please select one or multiple)

- a) Paediatric Consultant
- b) Orthopaedic Consultant
- c) Infectious Diseases Consultant
- d) Other (please specify)

5. Are patients discharged before culture results from synovial fluid aspirate are received? If yes, what requirements need to be met before patients are discharged?

Questions for lab/diagnostic team(s):

6. For adult and paediatric patients with suspected septic arthritis of native joints, what are the mean turnaround times (in hours, or if more appropriate, working days) for results on the following tests from receipt of specimen: (please provide an answer for each result)

- a) Gram Stain
- b) Culture
- c) Blood culture
- d) White blood cell count

7. Does your Trust/Health Board conduct PCR testing of bacteria from synovial fluid of patients who have suspected septic arthritis of native joints?

If yes:

- a) Is this testing conducted on site?
- b) At what point is testing requested – when the culture is negative or on request?
- c) How long is the average turnaround time for results from receipt of specimen?
- d) What organisms are routinely tested for?

8. Does your Trust/Health Board conduct 16S PCR testing of bacteria from synovial fluid of patients who have suspected septic arthritis of native joints?

If yes:

- a) Is this testing conducted on site?

- b) At what point is testing requested – when the culture is negative or on request?
- c) How long is the average turnaround time for results from receipt of specimen?
- d) What organisms are routinely tested for?

Joint question – input from both clinician and lab/diagnostic team:

9. For joint infections, in your Trust/Health Board, please confirm the following:

- a) Which roles or stakeholders are involved in the design of diagnostic pathways and introducing change/pathway improvement?
- b) Which team(s) hold the budget for investing and implementing in new technologies across the pathway (e.g. rapid diagnostic testing)?

Powys Response:

Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) is a non-acute care provider, and commissions services from several Welsh Health Boards and English providers. Powys patients requiring treatment for septic arthritis would be treated outside of PTHB. I therefore recommend that you contact the providers from whom the health board commissions services:

Health Board/Organisation	FOI Contact Details
Aneurin Bevan University Health Board	FOI.ABB@wales.nhs.uk
Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board	bcu.foi@wales.nhs.uk
Cardiff & Vale University Health Board	FOI.Requests@wales.nhs.uk
Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board	Freedomofinformation@wales.nhs.uk
Hywel Dda University Health Board	FOI.hyweldda@wales.nhs.uk
Swansea Bay University Health Board	FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk
Velindre University Health Board	Foi.vunhst@wales.nhs.uk

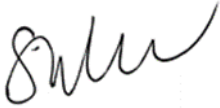
Health Board/Organisation	FOI Contact Details
Gloucester Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	ghn-tr.foi@nhs.net
The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	rjah.foi@nhs.net
Shrewsbury & Telford Hospital NHS Trust	https://www.sath.nhs.uk/about-us/freedom-of-information/make-an-enquiry/
Wye Valley NHS Trust	https://www.wyevalley.nhs.uk/about-us/information-requests.aspx

Under the terms of the Health Board’s Freedom of Information procedure, individuals seeking access to recorded information held by the Health Board are entitled to request an internal review of the handling of their requests. If you would like to complain about the Health Board’s handling of your request,

please contact us directly at the address below or register your complaint via powysfoi.foi@wales.nhs.uk

If after Internal Review you remain dissatisfied you are also entitled to refer the matter to the information commissioner at the Information Commissioner's Office (Wales), 2nd Floor, Churchill House, Churchill Way, Cardiff, CF10 2HH. Telephone Number: 0330 414 6421.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Powell
Director of Planning, Performance & Commissioning

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