

Our ref: IG/FOI/FOI.310.25

16 May 2025

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 1 May 2025, 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. For ease of reference your request is set out below and my response follows.

Your Freedom of Information (FOI) Request:

The confidential enquiry into maternal deaths has highlighted the increased risk of maternal morbidity and mortality in women with epilepsy during pregnancy. This survey aims to enhance our understanding of the services currently in place to manage these women.

Epilepsy in Pregnancy Services

Hospital Name:

Trust:

Maternity Medicine Network:

Secondary/Tertiary Care

Pre-pregnancy planning in women with epilepsy	
1a	Do women with epilepsy have access to a pre-pregnancy counselling clinic in your centre? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
1b	If pre-pregnancy counselling is available in your centre, who delivers this/these services? (Please tick all that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> A neurologist/ epilepsy specialist doctor <input type="checkbox"/> A neurology specialist nurse/ epilepsy specialty nurse <input type="checkbox"/> An obstetrician with an interest in neurology/ a maternal-fetal medicine obstetrician

Pencadlys
Tŷ Glasbury, Ysbyty Bronllys,
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		<input type="checkbox"/> An obstetrician physician <input type="checkbox"/> An epilepsy specialist midwife
1c	If you have selected more than one practitioner in question 1b do they work separately or as part of a joint clinic?	<input type="checkbox"/> They work separately <input type="checkbox"/> They work together in a joint clinic
1d	How are patients transferred into the pre-pregnancy clinic? (Please tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> From their General Practitioner (GP) <input type="checkbox"/> From their secondary care epilepsy service <input type="checkbox"/> Other – please state:

Antenatal management		
2	Do your patients have access to written information on the management of epilepsy in pregnancy?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
3a	Do women with epilepsy in your centre have access to regular planned antenatal care with a designated epilepsy care team?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
3b	If yes, which of the following healthcare professionals deliver the service? (Please tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> A neurologist/ epilepsy specialist doctor <input type="checkbox"/> A neurology specialist nurse/ epilepsy specialist nurse <input type="checkbox"/> An obstetrician with an interest in neurology/ a maternal-fetal medicine obstetrician <input type="checkbox"/> An obstetric physician <input type="checkbox"/> An epilepsy specialist midwife
3c	If you have selected more than one practitioner in questions 3b do they work separately or as part of a joint clinic?	<input type="checkbox"/> They work separately <input type="checkbox"/> They work together in a joint clinic
3d	How do women with epilepsy enter the service? (Please tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Identified at their booking appointment <input type="checkbox"/> From their General Practitioner (GP) <input type="checkbox"/> From their secondary care epilepsy service <input type="checkbox"/> Other – please state:
3e	If yes, how often are they reviewed in your epilepsy pregnancy clinic?	<input type="checkbox"/> Fortnight <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly <input type="checkbox"/> Bimonthly <input type="checkbox"/> Once per trimester <input type="checkbox"/> Other – please state:
4	Are women with epilepsy risk stratified in your antenatal service?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

4b	If yes, how is the risk assessment done?	<input type="checkbox"/> Using a risk stratification tool : please state which <input type="checkbox"/> Other – please state:
4c	If so do those women considered 'higher risk' have a different care pathway to those considered 'lower risk'	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please detail how these pathways differ:

Medication management		
5	How does your service manage folic acid use in women with epilepsy?	<input type="checkbox"/> Recommend 5mg folic acid for three months prior to pregnancy and throughout pregnancy <input type="checkbox"/> Recommend 5mg folic acid for three months prior to pregnancy and for the first trimester of pregnancy, then drop to 400mcg for the remainder of the pregnancy <input type="checkbox"/> Recommend 400mcg for three months prior to pregnancy and for the first trimester of pregnancy <input type="checkbox"/> Recommend 400mcg for three months prior to pregnancy and throughout pregnancy <input type="checkbox"/> Other – please state
6	How does your service manage titration of antiseizure medications in pregnancy? (Please tick all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Using drug levels <input type="checkbox"/> Using clinical symptoms <input type="checkbox"/> Using both drugs levels and clinical symptoms <input type="checkbox"/> Other – please state:
7	Does your centre routinely measure drug levels in women with epilepsy?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
8a	Do you use long-acting benzodiazepines, such as clobazam, in the peripartum period for women with 'high risk' of seizures during this period?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
8b	If yes, what is your routine drug/dose/regimen	
8c	If yes, what are the criteria for women being considered 'high risk'?	

Postpartum follow up for women with epilepsy		
9	How are women with epilepsy in your service followed up postpartum?	<input type="checkbox"/> In a postpartum pregnancy clinic <input type="checkbox"/> In their usual epilepsy clinic <input type="checkbox"/> By their GP <input type="checkbox"/> There is no routine follow-up

Powys Response:

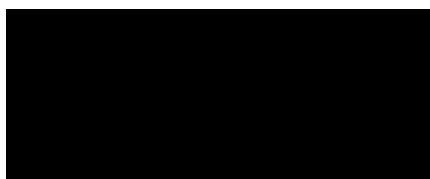
I can confirm Powys Teaching Health Board (PTHB) does not have an epilepsy specialist service. Powys patients requiring this service would be referred to one of our neighbouring district general hospitals and I recommend you contact them for this information directly; their contact details are below:

Health Trust/Organisation	FOI Contact Details
The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust	sath.foi@nhs.net
Wye Valley NHS Trust	Freedom.Information@wvt.nhs.uk
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
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

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 Powys.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



Zoe Ashman
Interim Assistant Director, Women & Children

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.