

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference Fol/20/218
NHS Wig Allowance (NHSWA)

Request details

I am requesting this information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Can you remind me how long Rookwood were responsible for the NHS wig allowance?

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) does not hold this information, under our Section 16 obligation, the duty to provide advice and assistance I can advise that Rookwood Hospital stopped providing this service in 2016.

And why dermatology have now taken over the allowance?

Dermatology took over the ordering of NHS wigs in Aug 2016 due to a retirement at the orthotics department in ALAC

Also I am searching for statistics on the number of registered people who are affected by Alopecia in Wales. How/where can I get this information and would it be categorised?

The UHB does not hold this information.

Also does the NHS WA cover the whole of Wales?

The UHB Dermatology Department are responsible for ordering wigs for alopecia patients within the health board area only.

How long has the NHSWA been available in Wales?

The UHB does not hold this information.

Does an alopecia patient have to be referred by their doctor to be able to take advantage of the NHSWA?

Yes, a referral would need to be made by the GP to a dermatologist before a provision of a wig is made.

Can you please explain the full process in detail and the likely amount of time it would take for a patient to get a wig?

A referral from a GP would need to be made to a dermatologist then a wait for an outpatient appointment could take up to 36 weeks. From time of clinicians referral to order of wig: 4 weeks.

How many patients in Cardiff use the NHS Wig Allowance?

The UHB currently have 155 patients receiving wigs

I am aware that Salon Wills covers Cardiff, Are there any others and can you tell me the names of all the other suppliers for NHS wigs in Wales and what areas they cover?

Salon Wills is the main current supplier of NHS wigs for the UHB's patients. If patients have moved, there are two other NHS suppliers we use called Peruke (Usk) and Inspiration (Bridgend). Please find attached a map with details of the other suppliers.

I am aware that Natural Image provide all wigs available to all NHS patients. Can you please confirm that this is the case?

Yes, this is the case. Another that is also used occasionally is Banbury Postiche

As far as I am aware the NHS offer only acrylic/synthetic wigs through the NHS. Can you tell me why the NHS do not offer human hair wigs and if they have ever considered this or been requested to?

This is correct. We have been requested to if patients have allergies. The cost of human hair wigs is very high.