

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference Fol/21/224**  
**ECT and Cognitive Testing**

**Request Details**

1. How many patients in total received ECT in 2019?

38

2. How many of these were female?

21

3. How many of these were over 60?

14

4. How many of these were under 18?

After considering your request, the UHB believes that Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 applies. Due to the low numbers of individuals involved (5 or less), the UHB believes that, when considered with other information already available within the public domain, disclosure would result in the risk of individuals becoming identifiable. The data requested 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.

5. How many patients received ECT without receiving a NICE recommended psychological therapy?

In completing a search for the information requested, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) has confirmed that this information is not centrally recorded or collated. To retrieve the information requested would require a manual search through individual records and the UHB considers that this would exceed the limit set within regulations for responding to a request. The UHB has therefore relied upon the Section 12 exemption ('Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit') of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and is refusing your request.

The UHB has estimated that to complete the work needed to respond to this request would exceed the time limit as set within regulations to respond to a Freedom of Information Act request. Under the Act there is an allowance of two and a half days, or 18 hours, to comply with a request and the cost limit set within the fees regulations for this amount of work (18 hours) is £450 for the UHB. The fees regulations specify that the cost of complying with a request must be calculated at the rate of £25 per hour

6. What measures of clinical outcome were used for patients who received ECT and what were the results?

The Hamilton Depression Rating Scale (HAMD) is used to measure clinical outcome for patients who receive ECT. We also rate using a Clinical Global Impression which incorporates the HAMD score into an assessment of severity of illness:

HAMD	CGI
0-6	1 = Normal, not at all ill
7-9	2 = Borderline mentally ill
10-16	3 = Mildly ill
17-24	4 = Moderately ill
25-29	5 = Markedly ill
30-39	6 = Severely ill
40	7 = Extremely ill

Our data from 2019 shows that of 22 patients, 10 were graded as “very much improved”, 4 were graded as “much improved”, 3 were graded as “minimally improved”, 4 were graded as “no change” and 2 were graded as “minimally worse”.

7. What measures of adverse effects for patients who received ECT were used, and what were the results?

Patients are asked weekly if they are experiencing any specific side effects such as memory loss or headaches.

They are also asked orientating questions such as date, day, place, last time they had ECT, who the prime minister is, recent news event or serial sevens question. Every 3 treatments patients are also given a cognitive test to also assess any memory problems.

The following tests are used as part of the cognitive assessment in Cardiff and Vale UHB:

- Mini Mental State Examination (0-30)
- Verbal Fluency (number of words in 1 min)
- Digit Span backwards (0-8)
- Recall of 12 words
- Recognition of words, shapes and faces (0-28)
- Reaction time simple
- Reaction time with distraction
- Complex figure drawing (best is 36)
- Cognitive Failures Questionnaire (more is worse)
- Trail Making A
- Trail Making B

All of the above are recognised cognitive tests and are performed prior to commencement of ECT, at the end of the course (usually 12 treatments) and 3 months after stopping ECT for follow up

After considering your request for patient results, the UHB believes that the data requested 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.

8. How many patients were given ECT without consent?

11 patients were given ECT under a CO6 or a Section 62 because they were deemed to lack capacity to consent to treatment.

9. Which professions did the SOAD consult for patients who did not consent?

From the data we have for 14 patients in 2019, 14 of statutory consultee 1's were nurses. Of Statutory consultee 2s, 6 were pharmacists, 2 were dietitians, 3 were occupational therapists and 3 were social workers.