

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request Reference FoI/23/594**  
**Postural Tachycardia Syndrome (PoTS)**

- 1. What is your estimate of the incidence of PoTS in the population of Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan and how many patients have been diagnosed with the condition over the last 5 years?**

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) does not hold this information in relation to adults. In accordance with our duty to advise and assist under section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the UHB can provide an approximate that the tertiary services at University Hospital of Wales (UHW) would have diagnosed over 100 adult cases.

In relation to the UHB's Paediatric Cardiology service, there are 19 children with a PoTS diagnosis in the South Wales region, 15 of whom have been diagnosed within the last five years.

- 2. Is there evidence of a growth in PoTS diagnoses since May 2020 due to patients suffering with long-Covid?**

The UHB does not hold this information. However, in accordance with our duty under section 16, the Cardiothoracic Directorate of the UHB can provide an anecdotal account that there has been an increase in the number of PoTS cases amongst adults in recent years. There is an association with all post-viral syndromes, including Covid-19.

Furthermore, the paediatric service's data storage system does not allow reviews of so-called 'joint terms' relating to PoTS. Nevertheless, there has been an increase in the rate of diagnosis for PoTS amongst children in South Wales since 2020, but this is not necessarily linked to contracting Covid-19.

- 3. To which specialty within secondary care are PoTS patients referred for investigation, diagnosis and longer-term management?**

General Medicine and Cardiology for adults, and Paediatric Cardiology for children.

- 4. Are there established ICB patient pathways in place for the referral, diagnosis and management of a) adult patients and b) paediatric patients with PoTS in your local population?**

- a) No.
- b) Yes.

**5. Do a) adult patients and b) paediatric patients diagnosed with PoTS have access to a specialised PoTS clinic or service for treatment by dedicated clinicians with an interest/expertise in the condition? If so, please provide details of individual adult and paediatric services patients are referred to.**

- a) No, there are no specialised PoTS clinics or services.
- b) The UHB has no specialised paediatric PoTS clinic; patients are seen in a General Cardiology clinic by consultants with the necessary tools to manage PoTS.

**6. How is activity coded for adult and paediatric patients with a diagnosis of PoTS?**

There is currently no code that classifies PoTS specifically. As such, the UHB would only code the Tachycardia. The following codes could be used:

- I49.8 – Other specified cardiac arrhythmias; or
- R00.0 – Tachycardia, unspecified.