

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request Reference FoI/24/256
Ophthalmology Services

Information Requested:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, we would like to request the answers to the below questions, in relation to your Ophthalmology services at the hospital trusts.

WET-AMD INJECTIONS:

1. What is the maximum number of wet-AMD injections you can facilitate in a week?
2. A) Do you run out-of-hours lists to keep up with demand for wet-AMD injections?
B) If you are running additional lists, how are these lists being accommodated?
C) If you are running additional lists, are you utilising any alternative clinical space?
3. A) What is the current waiting time for patients to secure an appointment for Wet- AMD injections?
B) What was the wait time at the same point in time in 2023?
4. A) How many patients are currently waiting for an appointment at a wet-AMD clinic?
B) What was the wait time at the same point in time in 2023?
5. A) Do you have a contingency plan to increase capacity should this be required?
B) If so, what is your contingency plan for wet-AMD injections?

GENERAL CAPACITY:

6. Are you outsourcing any ophthalmology clinical work to external parties or utilising insourcing partners? If so, what?
7. What condition takes up the majority of your clinical slots?
8. Would you consider a mobile unit as an option to expand services and capacity?
9. What is the name and contact details of the Ophthalmology Service Lead?

Response Details:

In response to point 1

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In response to point 2

Yes, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) runs out-of-hours lists. These are accommodated by payment for additional staff. These lists are outside of standard hours.

In response to point 3

NOP receive an appointment within seven days at the NHS Wales University Eye Care Centre (NWUECC) for referral refinement, then receive an appointment within seven days at the University Hospital of Wales (UHW) AMD clinic. So, 14 days altogether.

Follow-up appointments would be determined per patient, with differing pathways or intervals by medicine.

The same process at this calendar year was in place in 2023, therefore, 14 days.

In response to point 4

NOP are seen within 14 days of the original referral in UHW, and there is no backlog for NOP appointment.

In response to point 5

The Ophthalmology Department are currently working through workforce plans and have a number workforce being trained, or due to be trained, to inject and provide support roles in IVT process. The estate is also being reviewed for delivery.

In response to point 6

No.

In response to point 7

Wet AMD.

In response to point 8

If funding could be supported, yes.

In response to point 9

After considering your request, 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. Its disclosure would be contrary to the data protection principles and constitute unfair and unlawful processing with regard to Articles 5, 6, and 9 of the 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.

However, the UHB can confirm that the job title is Ophthalmology General Manager.