

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request Reference FoI/24/048
Myeloma Service Provision

As of 1 Jan 2024:

- **Total population size served by Health Board**

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) does not hold this information. However, according to our duty to advise and assist under section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has recorded the population size of Cardiff at 'around 362,300' people following the census in 2021.¹ Equally, the population for the Vale of Glamorgan was recorded at 'around 131,900' people according to the ONS in 2021.²

- **Number of hospitals providing oncology services**

The UHB has two hospitals providing oncology services, namely, University Hospital of Wales and University Hospital Llandough.

- **Total number of consultant haematologists employees; specialist haematology registrars employed; consultant haematologists specialising in multiple myeloma; haematology clinical nurse specialists employed and multiple myeloma clinical nurse specialists.**

The Haematology Directorate employed 22 Consultants (20.20 WTE) and 13 Clinical Nurse Specialists (11.32 WTE). There was one Consultant Haematologist specialising in myeloma and two Myeloma Clinical Nurse Specialists. A second Consultant Haematologist specialising in multiple myeloma is due to commence in March 2024.

During 2023 (1 Jan – 31 Dec), please provide the:

- **Total number of multiple myeloma (MM) cases diagnosed (Please state which code(s) were used)**
- **If known, how many people were diagnosed with smouldering multiple myeloma?**
- **How many in-person haematology-based consultation/telephone haematology-based consultations/ video haematology-based consultation took place for people diagnosed with MM?**

In completing a search for the information requested, 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 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit') and is refusing your request.

¹ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censusareachanges/W06000015/>

² <https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censusareachanges/W06000014/>

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.

During 2023 (1 Jan – 31 Dec):

- **Were multiple myeloma (MM) patients discussed/reviewed at a MM specific MDT or general haematology MDT?**

Yes.

- **How frequently did MDT meetings meet?**

Locally, MDT meetings are held every two weeks. This is changing to weekly meetings.

Regionally, MDT meetings are held every four weeks.

- **What percentage of MM patients diagnosed in 2023 were reviewed/discussed at a MDT?**

Data relating to the percentage of multiple myeloma patients diagnosed in 2023 that were reviewed or discussed at an MDT meeting is not held locally by the directorate.

- **Which professionals/disciplines are represented on MDT meetings for MM?**

At local MDT meetings, those represented are consultants, clinical nurse specialists, pharmacists, the genetics service, and MDT coordinators. Currently, there is no dedicated radiologist, although the service is proactively working to secure this in the near future.

At regional MDT meetings, the above professionals and specialists are present with the exception of the genetics service, however there is radiology attendance. Consultants also attend from the following health boards: Cardiff and Vale, Aneurin Bevan, Cwm Taf Morgannwg, and Hywel Dda.

- **What supportive and palliative care services are available for MM patients?**

The multiple myeloma service has excellent links with palliative care teams around the UHB to which it can refer patients, for example, Macmillan, Marie Curie, St David's, and City Hospice. This is dependent on where the patient lives.

The service is currently working proactively with the UHB's 'Shaping Change' team to scope out how other services can be incorporated to support patients going forwards, e.g. physiotherapy and dietetics.