

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request Reference FoI/24/437

Lithotripsy

In 2016 the Auditor General for Wales (“The impact of private practice on NHS provision”) noted that “ there is potential for patients to gain an unfair advantage by paying for an initial private consultation or diagnostic test and then reverting to an NHS waiting list” and recommended that “The Welsh Government should update the NHS Wales Data Dictionary and mandate the identification of private patients entering NHS waiting lists to enable regular monitoring to take place ... “

Relating to the Cardiff and Vale UHB, In the most recent period of 12 months for which records are held.

- 1. How many patients have been referred by a consultant for treatment of kidney stones by way of lithotripsy?**

78 patients.

- 2. Of the total number in 1 above, how many were referred by a consultant from their private practice and how many from NHS practice?**

7 private, 71 NHS.

- 3. In the same period, how many patients have undergone lithotripsy at the UHB for the treatment of kidney stones?**

537 patients.

- 4. Of the total so treated, how many have been referred for treatment by way of private consultations?**

7 patients.

- 5. What is the current average period between referral by a consultant for lithotripsy and that treatment first taking place?**

Urgent – six weeks; routine – 12 to 18 months.

- 6. Do average waiting times between referral for lithotripsy differ for those patients referred privately and those referred in NHS practice?**

Yes, privately-referred patients are booked as extras on the list, either at the start or at the end of a list. They do not take the place of an NHS patient.

7. What is the proportion of those referred for lithotripsy marked as urgent respectively by those referred privately and those referred following NHS consultation?

Over the last 12 months, of the 78 patients that were referred, 32 of them were urgent referrals. All of the seven private referrals were referred as urgent.