

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request Reference FoI/24/384
Healthcare-Associated Infections

- 1. How many Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAIs) have been recorded at University Hospital of Wales over the past three years?**
 - **2022**
 - **2023**
 - **2024 (to May 31)**

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) has estimated that to complete the work needed to respond to this request would exceed the time limit as outlined in the Appropriate Limit and Fees Regulations 2004. When estimating the cost of complying with a request for information under the applicable legislation, the UHB must calculate this cost at a rate of £25 per person per hour to a maximum of £450, with the appropriate time limit for complying therefore being 18 hours.

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 which the UHB considers would exceed the appropriate limit for the purposes of the 2004 Regulations. The UHB has therefore relied upon the exemption set out in section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit') and is refusing your request.

In accordance with a public authority's duty to advise and assist under section 16 of the 2000 Act, the UHB might be able to provide data for the purposes of this request if you specify the infections for which you would like information.

- 2. What are the most common types of HAIs reported in University Hospital of Wales (i.e., surgical site infections, MRSA, HPV etc.)?**

The UHB believes the exemption as outlined in section 12 applies and is therefore refusing your request.

- 3. Please provide data on the mortality rate associated with HAIs in University Hospital of Wales over the past three years?**
 - **2022**
 - **2023**
 - **2024 (to May 31)**

The UHB believes the exemption as outlined in section 12 of the Act applies and is therefore refusing your request.

- 4. On average, do patients who contract HAIs spend more, less or the same length of time in hospital compared to those who don't?**
 - **More time**
 - **Less time**
 - **The same amount of time**

The UHB believes the exemption as outlined in section 12 of the Act applies and is therefore refusing your request.

Anecdotally, though, depending on the type of infection, the UHB believes the stay is probably longer for patients who contract HAIs.

5. How much has the treatment of HAIs cost University Hospital of Wales over the past three years?

- **2022**
- **2023**
- **2024 (to May 31)**

The UHB believes the exemption as outlined in section 12 applies and is therefore refusing your request.

6. What infection control policies and procedures are currently in place to prevent HAIs?

- Hand Hygiene Procedure
- Mycobacterium Tuberculosis (TB) Procedure
- Outbreak Procedure
- Water Safety Plan
- Clostridium Difficile
- Viral Gastroenteritis (Norovirus) Procedure
- MRSA Procedure
- BBV
- Ectoparasitic infestations/infections: Fleas, Lice and Mites (Scabies)
- Standard Infection Control Precautions /Transmission Based Precautions
- Varicella
- Needlestick/Sharps
- MDRO
- Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease (CJD) and Variant CJD (Vcjd). Infection Prevention & Control Procedure

7. How often are these policies and procedures reviewed and updated at University Hospital of Wales (please provide dates of the last review/update period)?

The procedures are reviewed every three years unless there is an update to national guidance. All the procedures have different review dates.

8. Are there any specific protocols in place to deal with an outbreak of HAIs at University Hospital of Wales?

Incident/outbreak procedure.

9. How is staff hygiene maintained to reduce the risk of HAIs?

Through auditing and education.

10. How is visitor hygiene maintained to reduce the risk of HAIs?

Visitors are encouraged to maintain hand hygiene.

11. How is patient hygiene maintained to reduce the risk of HAIs?

Self-caring patients maintain their own hand hygiene, patients who need assistance are taken to the sink to wash their hands or offered wipes if bed bound.

12. Are there specific cleaning and disinfection procedures for patient rooms, medical equipment, and common areas?

Yes.

13. Have any new technologies or practices have been implemented to reduce the rates of HAIs at University Hospital of Wales over the past three years?

No.

14. Are there any plans to explore or introduce new technologies or practices at University Hospital of Wales to reduce the rates of HAIs over the next three years?

As new technologies come on to the market, the Infection Prevention and Control Department explores the benefits and tries them if appropriate.