

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request Reference FoI/24/165
Renal Services

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

Please note that the below is only in relation to adult Nephrology services.

1) How many patients are on dialysis at the hospital and are these seen two or three times per week?

During February 2024, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) delivered 436 dialysis sessions across all University Hospital of Wales wards and outpatient dialysis units. Chronic dialysis patients generally receive three sessions a week, however, as some of these patients may be acutely unwell or transferring between hospital and community, dialysis sessions may be varied.

2) What is your current capacity level and what is your maximum capacity level of renal dialysis?

There are 36 machines. The UHB could utilise these machines across its inpatient or outpatient areas during required hours, with appropriate staffing and skills mix planned and rota based on demand.

3) What is your current number of dialysis machines and what brand are they? Also, who is the RO plant manufacturer?

36 machines – B. Braun Dialog IQ.

4) What is the average cost per patient for renal dialysis within a hospital environment?

Average bed days cost for renal environment, which will include dialysis patients, is between £350–£570.

5) How old is your RO system and dialysis machines, and are they due for replacement, decant or upgrade any time soon?

The UHB is in contract until December 2026 for the dialysis machines. RO Plants are between six and ten years old, and there are no plans for replacement, decant or upgrade.

6) What is your contingency plan for when you run out of internal dialysis capacity or your machines/RO go down?

There are a number of options and scenarios depending on the situation and demand. Separate RO systems give the UHB good contingency in the event of one RO going down.

We are consistently monitoring our demands. We use our capacity across the South East Wales region to manage demand and capacity within business continuity.

If we consistently saw growth in demand, then we would consider other options such as expansions of existing capacity in units or twilight sessions.

7) Where does the primary source of funding for the renal department stem from? Is it directly from the health board or elsewhere?

The funding for dialysis provision across Wales is through the Welsh Kidney Network and Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee.

8) Have you ever considered using a mobile renal dialysis unit to support your services through disaster recovery, decant, replacement or refurbishment?

Considered but not used.