

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request Reference FoI/24/194
Surgery Wait Times and Funding

Information Requested:

Please can you advise what the quickest, median and longest waiting times are from initial referral to the waiting list to surgery being completed, for the following surgeries in your health board. Please could the data be broken down by quarter for the last 5 years.

1. Urgent hip replacements
2. Routine hip replacements
3. Urgent knee replacements
4. Routine knee replacements

Can you also advise how many patients have accessed S2 funding for treatment abroad broken down by year for the last 5 years. Can you list the treatment type e.g. hip/knee replacement etc and the clinics/countries where the treatment was obtained.

Response Details:

Please see the attached Excel document for minimum, maximum and median weeks' wait for hip or knee replacements from the 2019–20 to 2023–24 financial year. Please note that Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) is using 'referral-to-treatment rules', that is, if a patient cancels an appointment or does not attend by breaching the 'reasonable offer' wait list rule, their clock is reset back to zero weeks. The patient would still be a longest waiter if we measured their wait time from the referral date, and it may be that the cancellation was not their fault, and, clinically, they are still the next to treat. Therefore, the minimum referral to treatment time is not entirely indicative of the UHB's performance, but the median and the maximum are more appropriate measures.

In the last five years, the UHB has approved two patients for Orthopaedic treatment under the S2 process.

- 2019 – 0 S2s approved.
- 2020 – 0 S2 approved.
- 2021 – 1 S2 approved for Orthopaedic Surgery.
- 2022 – 1 S2 approved for Orthopaedic Surgery.
- 2023 – 0 S2s approved.
- 2024 – 0 S2s approved.

Due to the low level of requests and the associated risk of reidentification, we have not provided any further details, in accordance with section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.