



Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Cwm Taf Morgannwg
University Health Board

Your Ref/Eich cyf:	
Our Ref/Ein cyf:	CTMUHB_299_20
Date/Dyddiad:	19 October 2020
Tel/ffôn:	01443 744800
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Email/ebost:	Julie.butler@wales.nhs.uk
Dept/Adran:	Corporate Development

Sent by email to:

request-692830-032320f3@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Mr Harding,

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_299_20

Thank you for your request for information received on the 22 September 2020, regarding **Urology department: impact of COVID-19 on prostate cancer diagnosis, treatment and support**. Please find the response from Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board set out below:

You asked:

We are undertaking a Freedom of Information Act (FOI) request of all Trusts, Health Boards and Health and Social Care Trusts, with the aim of assessing the impact of COVID-19 on prostate cancer diagnosis, treatment and support pathways.

Data will be used to identify how we can target future resources to ensure that all patients with suspected prostate cancer have access to pre-biopsy MRI and biopsy, treatment within a safe time period and support, with minimal risk of contracting COVID-19.

Please pass the below on to your urology department for them to complete.

We ask that you please indicate your answer by marking with an "X" next to any answers that apply or by deleting all answers that do not apply. Please avoid answering by italics, underlining or bold, as these do not show up when we process your response.

Cyfeiriad Dychwelyd / Return Address:

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Cwm Taf Morgannwg, Pencadlys, Parc Navigation, Abercynon, CF45 4SN
Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board, Headquarters, Navigation Park, Abercynon, CF45 4SN

Cadeirydd/Chair: Professor Marcus Longley

Prif Weithredydd/ Chief Executive: Mr Paul Mears

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Cwm Taf Morgannwg yw enw gweithredol Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Prifysgol Cwm Taf Morgannwg
ICwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board is the operational name of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Local Health Board

1. Did you suspend your MRI before biopsy service for patients with suspected prostate cancer as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?

No.

2. If yes, have you now resumed MRI before biopsy for patients with suspected prostate cancer?

N/A.

3. Do you currently use a pre-MRI clinical triage for patients with suspected prostate cancer? By pre-MRI clinical triage, we mean a process, often Clinical Nurse Specialist led, that determines patient suitability for MRI before biopsy

Yes.

4. Has your radiology department introduced any new MRI exclusion criteria for patients with suspected prostate cancer as a result of COVID-19?

No.

5. If yes, do you plan to maintain any of these exclusion criteria once restrictions to limit patients' COVID-19 risk are lifted?

N/A.

6. Did you stop conducting biopsies for patients with suspected prostate cancer as a result of COVID-19 infection risks?

Yes but only for a short period when the Standard Operating Procedure for safe prostate biopsies was developed and approved by the Health Board. We also need to view this in the context of a substantial reduction in presentation and referral numbers during the peak of the pandemic. We were also only carrying out biopsies on Pi-RADS 4 & 5 patients but we have now resumed full service to include PI-RADS 3 (similar to pre-covid).

7. If yes, have you resumed biopsy services for patients with suspected prostate cancer?

Yes.

8. Do you offer transperineal biopsy under local anaesthetic?

No, but we recognise the direction of travel and would be interested in training opportunities if available for undertaking Transperineal biopsy under Local Anaesthetics.

9. Following an MRI scan for suspected prostate cancer, what criteria do you use to select patients for biopsy? Please include all that apply:

Patients with a PI-RADS or Likert score of 3 or greater.

10. Did you delay radiotherapy treatment for prostate cancer patients as a result of COVID-19?

Yes.

11. If yes, have you cleared your backlog for prostate cancer radiotherapy treatment?

Yes.

12. Did you delay radical prostatectomy for prostate cancer patients as a result of COVID-19?

Partially (please specify:) Still operated on high risk patients in tertiary centre.

13. If yes, have you cleared your radical prostatectomy backlog?

Yes.

14. To address your backlog did or are you using a protocol to risk stratify patients and prioritise patients with high-risk and locally advanced prostate cancer for treatment within 3 months?

Yes.

15. Does your protocol apply to new patients with high-risk and locally advanced prostate cancer with the intention to radically treat them within 3 months of diagnosis?

Yes.

16. Do you have prostate cancer Personalised Stratified Follow Up (PSFU) protocols in place?

No, not in our organisation. Prostatectomies are done at a tertiary centre.

17. If Yes, do you have a digital remote monitoring system in place for follow up?

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No.

18. If no, do you plan to implement a digital remote monitoring system for follow up?

Yes – Being discussed with Welsh Government for an all Wales option.

19. Which of the following criteria are part of your follow up protocols?

- Patients have access to a Support Worker who acts as their key worker for the duration of their follow up care.
- Patients have access to an online patient service that allows them to check test results, complete assessments, view patient information and message their clinical team.
- Patients attend a 4-hour supported self-management workshop with a group of 8 to 10 men to develop knowledge, skills and confidence to self-manage their condition
- Patients do not need to attend routine appointments unless an issue arises.

I trust that this provides the information that you require. Under the terms of the Health Board's Freedom of Information policy, individuals seeking access to recorded information held by the Health Board are entitled to request an internal review of the handling of their requests. If you would like to complain about the Health Board's handling of your request please contact me directly at the address below. If after Internal Review you remain dissatisfied you are also entitled to refer the matter to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

- Information Commissioner's Office - Wales
2nd Floor, Churchill House, Churchill Way, Cardiff, CF10 2HH
- Telephone: 0330 414 6421 / Email: wales@ico.gsi.gov.uk
- <https://ico.org.uk/>

You should note, however, that the Information Commissioner would normally expect you to have exhausted our internal complaints procedures before dealing with such an application. Further guidance may be found on the Information Commissioner's website [click here](#).

Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board routinely publishes details of all Freedom of Information Act requests received in its disclosure log. The Disclosure Log can be found at <http://cwmtafmorgannwg.wales/foi/disclosure-log/>

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

Julie Butler

Freedom of Information Officer/Swyddog Rhyddid Gwybodaeth