

Freedom of Information Request	FOI 21-002	1 st February 2021
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1 With the current Covid numbers increasing can you confirm that the hospitals in the trust are only taking these patients and patients with severe heart problems at present please, and would they be turned away if they did not meet this criteria?

We can confirm the Health Board continues to admit all patients regardless of COVID status who need an emergency admission to hospital. The decision to admit is a medical one taken by the medical team assessing the patient when they arrive at hospital

2 If 1 is not correct can you please tell me the current priority given to patients who have emergencies like cancer operations and other operations have these been put on hold with a timescale please, and how patients are categorised currently.

As a Health Board we took the decision in mid-December to focus our efforts on patients requiring Urgent and Cancer care in order to provide effective support to the current COVID surge, especially to our Critical Care Unit We are continuing with some routine work where we have safe staffing and capacity and prioritisation is made on clinical assessment of risk to patients.

3 The number of vaccinations the Health Board will receive and distributed to each local authority in Gwent and South Powys with a timescale as I have received a number of queries from residents who are currently shielding who believe they should receive priority.

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board is following the Joint Committee of Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) priority groups and people will be invited for their vaccination in this order. Anyone on the Shielding Patients List (as defined here: www.gov.wales/protecting-people-defined-medical-grounds-extremely-vulnerable-coronavirus-covid-19-previously) will fall into priority group 4, unless they already meet the criteria for groups 1-3. The JCVI priority groups are:

1. Residents in a care home for older adults and their carers
2. All those 80 years of age and over and frontline health and social care workers
3. All those 75 years of age and over
4. All those 70 years of age and over and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals
5. All those 65 years of age and over
6. All individuals aged 16 years to 64 years with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality
7. All those 60 years of age and over
8. All those 55 years of age and over
9. All those 50 years of age and over

Further information about the JCVI priority groups can be found here:
www.gov.uk/government/publications/priority-groups-for-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-advice-from-the-jcvi-30-december-2020

You can find weekly updates for the ABUHB area, including supplies of the vaccine and planned activity here: www.abuhb.nhs.wales/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccine

Available data on vaccine delivery can be found on the Public Health Wales website:
<https://public.tableau.com/profile/public.health.wales.health.protection#!/vizhome/RapidCOVID-19virology-Public/Headlinesummary>

Information about vaccine roll-out in South Powys can be obtained from Powys Teaching Health Board.

4 In regard 3 people have asked about the distribution mechanism will it be done on population, age profile or medical needs following consultation with GPs

Please see the response to question 3.

Further information on the COVID-19 vaccine can also be found here:
<https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/immunisation-and-vaccines/covid-19-vaccination-information/>

5 The number of patients currently receiving care in regard Covid in the ABUHB, and have transfers needed to take place to English hospitals with numbers and locations

There are currently no patients in the Health Board awaiting transfers to England

6 Concerns have also been raised about the hard working staff in the hospitals and resources available and numbers including are they able to cope with the added pressure

We understand that all our staff are working incredibly hard both in our hospitals and in community settings during this unprecedented time. The pandemic has understandably created added pressure for staff and we are constantly working to ensure that we deploy staff across our sites to reflect the level of demand. We have a broad range of employee wellbeing services in place to support staff, such as, access to counselling, 'drop in' support sessions, risk assessments, coaching and supervision. The wellbeing of our staff is a top priority and is underpinned by a comprehensive policy framework and practical support.