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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Aneurin Bevan
University Health Board

Our ref: **FOI 24-195**

Your request

You requested the following:

1. How many GP surgeries in AB HB provided ear wax removal services in 2023?
2. How many GP surgeries in AB provided ear wax removal services in 2010?
3. Number of patients being referred to ENT for ear wax removal?
4. Number of patients in A&E because of ear infections in 2023
5. Number of patients in A&E because of ear infections in 2010

Our response

I can confirm that the Health Board has completed a search of its records and has established that it does hold some information related to your request.

In response to questions 1 and 2, ear wax management is not part of the General Medical Services (GMS) contract and we therefore do not monitor the provision of ear wax removal services within GP practices.

In response to question 3, patients are not referred to the Health Board's Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) department for ear wax removal. The Health Board's ENT department do provide specialist micro suction for some chronic ear conditions, but they do not provide a basic wax removal service.

In response to questions 4 and 5, we do not record specifically record 'ear infections' as a reason for attendance at an Emergency Department, however we have provided information below for ear injuries, problems and aches.

Emergency Department attendances		
Complaint	Number of attendances in 2023	Number of attendances in 2010
Ear injury	326	235
Ear problem	1042	851
Earache	162	183

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Aneurin Bevan

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Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a byddwn yn ymateb yn Gymraeg heb oedi.

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Aneurin Bevan yw enw gweithredol Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Prifysgol Aneurin Bevan.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh and we will respond in Welsh without delay.

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board is the operational name of Aneurin Bevan University Local Health Board.