

Freedom of Information Request	FOI 21-516	6 th January 2022
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1. Does your Health Board provide inclusive treatment for Functional Neurological Disorder?

There is not a specialised or coordinated service for Functional Neurological Disorders [FND] in ABUHB but people with FND are assessed and treated by therapists in a range of settings including inpatients, outpatients and community. These people are not always diagnosed as having a functional neurological disease.

2. Can you please confirm within your Health Board that it provides each of the following services and that people with FND are eligible to be referred and receive this treatment as part of a biopsychosocial multi-disciplinary approach:

- Neurological physiotherapy: Yes
- Neurological occupational therapy: Not neurological, but FND seen by Long Term conditions OT, Continuing Health Care and Community Resource Teams
- Speech and language therapy: Yes
- Psychological therapists with specialist knowledge and skills in treating FND: people with functional overlay are seen by clinical psychologists in Community Neuro Rehab Service but not pure functional diagnoses. Funding for a Non-Epileptic Attack Disorder Service has recently been reallocated from a tertiary centre, currently in recruitment.

These services accept FND referrals but do not work in a systematically MDT approach, although there are examples where MDT working occurs.

3. Can you please provide a list of the services offered and contact details which include both Inpatient and Community/Outpatient Rehabilitation Services as advised in Q2?

In Patient Physio and Outpatient Physio: Sue Armstrong:
Sue.Armstrong@wales.nhs.uk

Psychology: Daryl.Harris@wales.nhs.uk

SLT Request for Helpline on 03003034536 (Monday to Friday 1pm - 4pm).
<https://abuhb.nhs.wales/hospitals/a-z-of-services/speech-and-language-therapy/>

Occupational Therapy: Referral information is available on the following link:
<https://abuhb.nhs.wales/hospitals/a-z-of-services/occupational-therapy/>

4. If your Health Board excludes the treatment of Functional Neurological Disorder, can you please provide details of which services in your Health Board Areas accepts referrals for treatment for Functional Neurological Disorder?

Not applicable.

5. Do you have plans to improve access to treatment for people with FND? If so, can you provide details of what improvements are being implemented?

The neuro-physiotherapists recently met with Neurologists in the Health Board to discuss FND and ways to improve services. There is an interest and willingness to improve services, but no plans are in place at present.

We have also repatriated a service from another health board to set up a local psychology service within the community.

6. Would you or your colleagues be interested in accessing clinical support/education about FND involving specialist clinicians? Yes there is interest in clinical support and education. Staff have accessed a range of supports at national conference, regional webinar and some therapists are members of special interest groups.