

Freedom of Information Request	FOI 22-282	19 th July 2022
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Current waiting times for fertility patients - I was wondering if it would be possible to provide us with an update on waiting times and whether or not your service is experiencing any covid-related delays? This help us to provide UpToDate information to those we are supporting in your health board area.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Health Board received a directive from Welsh Government to suspend all non-urgent activity, including outpatient consultations. Since resuming all outpatient consultations, the service, in line with Welsh Government Referral to Treatment (RTT) guidelines, is currently working through a significant waiting list backlog in all Gynaecology sub-specialties including Fertility. The current waiting time for a first appointment in a fertility clinic is 20 weeks.

Effective from July 2022, the service has introduced a Fertility Link Worker Nurse post. This valuable additional post supports a Nurse Led workstream that provides co-ordination of the patient pathway enabling a more streamlined patient journey, thereby reducing waiting times between diagnostic tests. Once referred to the service patients will be able to access the Fertility Nurse directly via a dedicated email address where queries can be answered in a timely manner.