

Freedom of Information Request	FOI 22-391	26 th September 2022
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I should be grateful if you are able to respond and provide details for the below.

Q1 How well is AB doing against Wales target which is: Current target includes time spent waiting for any hospital appointments, specified tests, scans or other procedures that may be necessary before being treated. The current RTT target in NHS Wales is: 95 per cent of patients should be waiting less than 26 weeks; and no patients should wait longer than 36 weeks for treatment.

The current metric is 61.2% compliance against 26-week target at the end of August 22.

At the end of August 2022, compliance with the 36 week measure was 72% with 36,051 patients waiting more than 36 weeks.

Q2 Waiting time from hospital receipt of GP referral to actual date of first outpatient appointment date (for both Urgent referral and routine referral).

For the period September 2021 to August 2022:

Specialty	(Average wait in Weeks) Urgent	(Average wait in Weeks) Routine
Adult Weight Management		5
Anaesthetics	10	6
Cardiology	11	16
Care of the Elderly	3	12
Chemical Pathology	12	28
Child & Adolescent Psychiatry		39
Child Weight Management		5
Clinical Haematology	0	2
Clinical Immunology & Allergy		8
Clinical Microbiology	4	5
Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics	11	28
Dermatology	3	33
Diabetes & Endocrinology	10	8
Diabetes Education		14
Diagnostic Imaging	0	
Dietetics	9	9
Ear Nose & Throat	9	74
Gastroenterology	10	20
General Medicine	13	34
General Surgery	4	13

Specialty	(Average wait in Weeks) Urgent	(Average wait in Weeks) Routine
Gynaecology	6	21
Infectious Diseases	12	16
Intermediate Care		1
Maxillo-Facial	12	47
Medical Virology	2	10
Midwife Led Care	4	4
Nephrology	4	6
Neurology	11	18
Neurophysiology	1	13
Nursing Activity		2
Obstetrics	2	3
Obstetrics Ante Natal	1	1
Occupational Therapy	12	10
Ophthalmology	0	26
Orthodontics	13	62
Orthoptic - Medical Eyes	0	19
Orthotics	3	7
Paediatric	4	8
Paediatric Neurology		0
Pain Management	8	24
Palliative Care	2	
Physiotherapy	2	10
Podiatry	0	5
Post-COVID-19 Paediatric	6	8
Post-COVID-19 Syndrome Service	9	10
Radiology	0	1
Radiotherapy & Oncology	0	
Rehabilitation	6	7
Respiratory	2	8
Respiratory Physiology	14	28
Restorative Dentistry	0	2
Rheumatology	7	16
Speech & Language Therapy	7	6
Stroke	1	14
Trauma & Orthopaedic	21	70
Urology	7	38
Vascular Surgery	2	5

Q3 Waiting time from decision that hip replacement surgery required (i.e. added to Waiting list for surgery) to Surgical procedure date /taking place. Split between urgent and routine.

For the period August 2021 to July 2022, the median time from being added to the treatment waiting list to having hip surgery was 31-weeks for urgent and 97-weeks for routine.

Q4 Does Wales or AB Health Board use or plan to use Private Hospitals to reduce waiting lists especially in orthopaedics which have been

flagged as a significant issue for Wales earlier in 2022 as they are in England and if not what plans are in place to do this to bring waiting lists down faster?

The Health Board has no plans to outsource patients to a private provider, but several initiatives are planned for the short, medium, and long-term including:

1. Return to Pre-COVID levels of activity including:
 - a. Backfill a theatre when a consultant is on leave.
 - b. Seven day working at the Orthopaedic Surgical Unit, St Woolos Hospital.
 - c. Six day working at Nevill Hall Hospital Day Surgery Unit and Royal Gwent Hospital.
2. Recruitment of additional Middle Grade Doctors to allow Senior Associate Specialist and Specialist Doctor Grade staff undertake independent practice.
3. Appointment and expansion of responsibility for senior, non-medical staff including Advanced Clinical Practitioners and Clinical Specialist Physiotherapists to undertake independent practice in association with consultant colleagues.
4. Recruitment of an additional two Consultants with one specialised in Foot & Ankle and a second in Soft Tissue Knees.
5. Implementation of daycase major joint surgery to reduce pressures on elective beds.
6. Adherence to published [GIRFT](#) report outcomes.
7. The Health Board has used private providers in recent months for ophthalmology and have used St Josephs for orthopaedics.