

Freedom of Information Request	FOI 23-406	06 October 2023
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Your request

You requested the following:

1. Why the Health Board does not have a 'one-stop shop' Breast Unit.
2. Why this no longer exists, having been in place previously.
3. What the waiting time is for a mammogram, then, subsequently, for a follow-up appointment for results.
4. Whether this waiting is longer than usual due to the school holidays.
5. What the Health Board's current performance is for the breast cancer pathway.

Our response

1. The following is an extract from the decision-making paper "Changes to the current breast pathway": *"At present we have a two-tier system with patients undergoing one stop clinics at Nevill Hall Hospital and two stop (patients have a mammogram first) at the Royal Gwent, due to the logistics involved with the distance between mammography and breast clinic at the Royal Gwent making one stop impossible. One stop clinics are the gold standard however not as many patients can be seen per clinic and they are not as efficient. Given our current shortage of radiology slots we have therefore made the decision to change Nevill Hall to two stop clinic but with a difference. Whilst mammograms are generally performed up to 2 weeks prior to clinic they are sometimes not reported until the day before or on the day of surgery, thus offering no advantage of predicting what is coming to clinic or giving us the ability to bring patients with a definite abnormality on mammography forward. Therefore, from the end of May instead of patients being booked into a breast clinic first and then having their mammogram 2 weeks prior to the appointment, they will instead have a mammogram appointment first, have their mammograms reported and then be categorised into either red (obvious cancer), amber (indeterminate mammographic abnormalities) or green (no obvious mammographic and given an appointment dependent upon their mammogram)."*
2. Please see response to Question 1.
3. Patients are booked within 7 days for a mammogram. The current average waiting time from referral to outpatient appointment on a suspected cancer pathway is 4 weeks depending on the priority.
4. The waiting times have remained stable during the school holidays.
5. The Health Board report our cancer treatment performance to Welsh Government, the results can be seen here.

<https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/NHS-Hospital-Waiting-Times/Cancer-Waiting-Times/Monthly/suspectedcancerpathwayclosedpathways-by-localhealthboard-tumoursite-agegroup-gender-measure-month>