

John Morley (Public Health Wales)

From: FOI (Public Health Wales)
Subject: FW: Request Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act
Attachments: FOI Request 464 Hepatitis E.DOC

Importance: High

In regards to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act, please find attached the answers to your questions and explanatory text around these answers.

FOI Request 464 Hepatitis E

Background

Hepatitis E (HEV) is historically associated with travel to endemic areas or from consumption of contaminated food and water, especially in areas with poor sanitation. The number of UK-acquired cases has been increasing over recent years although the source of infection in these cases remains unidentified. Public Health Wales collaborates with Public Health England in providing limited enhanced surveillance using standard questionnaires to identify possible risk factors for UK-acquired hepatitis E infection.

HEV is a known cause of epidemic and intermittent (sporadic) cases of enterically-transmitted acute hepatitis. There is no specific treatment for hepatitis E, other than treatment of symptoms, prevention is the best course of action. There is no vaccine for hepatitis E.

Infection may be acquired through the faecal-oral route, for example when infected people have a bowel movement and don't wash their hands well, they can spread the virus to anything they touch and other people can pick it up when they touch the same surface later.

Consumption of water contaminated with faeces containing the virus or consumption of fruit or vegetables washed or irrigated with it is a common route of contamination as is consumption of meat from pigs or wild game since the virus has been found in these animals. In countries with poor sanitation, consumption of bottled water is advisable. Consumption of raw pig liver sausage is inadvisable since this has been implicated in hepatitis E related disease. Shellfish and soft fruits have been implicated as sources of food-borne infection.

Investigating hepatitis E infection in Wales and possible risk factors may provide a greater knowledge on the local epidemiology of autochthonous hepatitis E cases which is currently limited. This is particularly important given that data on human cases may be underestimated as historically a high proportion of clinicians do not test for hepatitis E virus unless the patient reports a history of recent travel to a hepatitis E virus-endemic region; however recent trends suggest increasing awareness by clinicians in Wales.

Questions asked (1-4) with responses based on reports to Public Health Wales:

1. The number of reported cases of **Hepatitis E** reported to the Health Protection Agency by date reported and contracted by members of the public living in the Caerphilly region of Wales which **were not travel** related between 1st April 2013 and 1st July 2013 inclusive.

Response by Public Health Wales

*The number of autochthonous cases of hepatitis E reported to Public Health Wales in residents of Caerphilly County (postcode CF83) between 1st April 2013 and 1st July 2013 is **nil (0)**.*

2. The number of reported cases of **Hepatitis E** reported to the Health Protection Agency by date reported and contracted by members of the public living in Wales with a Cardiff postcode (CF) which **were not travel** related between 1st April 2013 and 1st July 2013 inclusive.

Response by Public Health Wales [see DN1.]

*The number of autochthonous cases of hepatitis E reported to Public Health Wales in residents with a CF postcode between 1st April 2013 and 1st July 2013 is **nil (0)**.*

2. The number of reported cases of **Hepatitis E** reported to the Health Protection Agency by date reported and contracted by members of the public living in Wales with a Newport postcode (NP) which **were not travel** related between 1st April 2013 and 1st July 2013 inclusive.

Response by Public Health Wales [see DN 2]

*The number of autochthonous cases of hepatitis E with an Newport postcode (NP10, NP11, NP18, NP19, NP20), reported to Public Health Wales between 1st April and 1st July 2013 is **one (1)**.*

4. The number of reported cases of **Hepatitis E** reported to the Health Protection Agency by date reported and contracted by members of the public living in Wales which **were travel** related between 1st April 2013 and 1st July 2013 inclusive.

Response by Public Health Wales

*The number of known travel-associated cases reported to Public Health Wales in all counties of Wales between 1st April and 1st July 2013 is **two (2)**.*

Drafting Note 1: *The CF postcode encompasses the areas listed in Table 1.*

Drafting Note 2: *The NP postcode encompasses the areas listed in Table 2.*

Drafting Note 3: *Cases are asked at interview if they had spent any nights outside the UK in the 9 weeks before becoming ill. If travel was to an HEV endemic area (India, Central and south-east Asia, the Middle East, Mexico, Africa) the case may be thanked for their assistance and the interview terminated. If travel was to a non-endemic area, the interview will continue.*

Drafting Note 4: *Patients with hepatitis E do not always have a defined onset of illness, and which can be slow and insidious. Symptoms may be vague and ill-defined with an incubation period extending from weeks to months. Date of interview may therefore used in some cases as a proxy for date of onset.*

Table 1. CF Postcodes

CF	CF3, CF5, CF10, CF11, CF14, CF15, CF23, CF24, CF30, ^{non-geo} CF91, ^{non-geo} CF95, ^{non-geo} CF99 ^{non-geo}	<u>CARDIFF</u>
CF	CF31, CF32, CF33, CF35	<u>BRIDGEND</u>
CF	CF34	<u>MAESTEG</u>
CF	CF36	<u>PORTHCAWL</u>
CF	CF37, CF38	<u>PONTYPRIDD</u>
CF	CF39	<u>PORTH</u>
CF	CF40	<u>TONYPANDY</u>
CF	CF41	<u>PENTRE</u>
CF	CF42	<u>TREORCHY</u>
CF	CF43	<u>FERNDALE</u>
CF	CF44	<u>ABERDARE</u>
CF	CF45	<u>MOUNTAIN ASH</u>
CF	CF46	<u>TREHARRIS</u>
CF	CF47, CF48	<u>MERTHYR TYDFIL</u>
CF	CF61, CF71 ^{shared}	<u>LLANTWIT MAJOR</u>
CF	CF62, CF63	<u>BARRY</u>
CF	CF64 ^{shared}	<u>DINAS POWYS</u>
CF	CF64 ^{shared}	<u>PENARTH</u>
CF	CF71 ^{shared}	<u>COWBRIDGE</u>
CF	CF72	<u>PONTYCLUN</u>
CF	CF81	<u>BARGOED</u>
CF	CF82	<u>HENGOED</u>
CF	CF83	<u>CAERPHILLY</u>

Table 2. NP Postcodes

NP	NP4	<u>PONTYPOOL</u>
NP	NP7 ^{shared}	<u>ABERGAVENNY</u>
NP	NP7, ^{shared[10]} NP8	<u>CRICKHOWELL</u>
NP	NP10, NP11, NP18, NP19, NP20	<u>NEWPORT</u>
NP	NP12	<u>BLACKWOOD</u>
NP	NP13	<u>ABERTILLERY</u>
NP	NP15	<u>USK</u>
NP	NP16	<u>CHEPSTOW</u>
NP	NP22	<u>TREDEGAR</u>
NP	NP23	<u>EBBW VALE</u>
NP	NP24	<u>NEW TREDEGAR</u>
NP	NP25	<u>MONMOUTH</u>
NP	NP26	<u>CALDICOT</u>
NP	NP44	<u>CWMBRAN</u>

If I can help you further or you do not understand any of this reply, please come back to me and I will assist and advise you further.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of the decision, you should write to the Corporate Complaints Manager, Public Health Wales NHS Trust, Unit 1 Charnwood Court, Heol Billingsley, Parc Nantgarw Cardiff, CF15 7QZ.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint or review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Trust. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner for Wales
2nd Floor
Churchill House
Churchill Way
Cardiff
CF10 2HH
Telephone: 029 2067 8400
Email: wales@ico.org.uk

Kind regards

John

Ivor John Morley

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From: Simon Lomax [<mailto:Simon.Lomax@simpsonmillar.co.uk>]

Sent: 08 December 2014 20:17

To: FOI (Public Health Wales)
Subject: Request Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act

Dear Sirs

Request Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act

Date Request Made: 8th December 2014.

I am writing to seek your assistance regarding a serious incidence of illness that affected a UK resident living in the Caephilly region of South Wales in June 2013.

My client contracted Hepatitis E resulting in liver failure shortly after a trip to Egypt.

I am seeking to establish the likelihood or otherwise that there may have been a domestic problem.

I therefore politely request information that will enable me to quantify the number of recorded cases of Hepatitis E in regions of Wales between the periods 1st April 2013 and 1st July 2013.

My requests are to seek the following specific information;

1. The number of reported cases of **Hepatitis E** reported to the Health Protection Agency by date reported and contracted by members of the public living in the Caephilly region of Wales which **were not travel** related between 1st April 2013 and 1st July 2013 inclusive.
2. The number of reported cases of **Hepatitis E** reported to the Health Protection Agency by date reported and contracted by members of the public living in Wales with a Cardiff postcode (CF) which **were not travel** related between 1st April 2013 and 1st July 2013 inclusive.
3. The number of reported cases of **Hepatitis E** reported to the Health Protection Agency by date reported and contracted by members of the public living in Wales with a Newport postcode (NP) which **were not travel** related between 1st April 2013 and 1st July 2013 inclusive.
4. The number of reported cases of **Hepatitis E** reported to the Health Protection Agency by date reported and contracted by members of the public living in Wales which **were travel** related between 1st April 2013 and 1st July 2013 inclusive.

If I could call upon your assistance to supply the information I would be very grateful.

I look forward to hearing from you and please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any clarification or would want to discuss my request further.

Yours faithfully.

Simon Lomax
Associate FCILex
Simpson Millar LLP, Solicitors
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