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Public Health
Wales

Freedom of Information request to Public Health Wales

FOI Reference:	FOI 399
Date request received	30 July 2020
Date information is due to be sent	27 August 2020

Information Requested:

Within our goal of understanding NHS' needs, here are some questions we'd like to ask:

- For the average NHS Wales hospital, what is the current turnaround time for testing results, and is it a priority to reduce this time?
- To what extent is NHS Wales interested in purchasing rapid, point-of-care testing?
- Are costs for current tests a concern for NHS Wales?
- What is the current accuracy of testing?
- What would an ideal COVID-19 diagnostic look like? What considerations would you value most? (speed, accuracy, cost, etc.)
- What are the current logistics related to testing? Is testing conducted at the hospital gate, only in the ER, etc.? How frequently is testing done?

Information provided for the answer:

Thank you for your recent request, answers are given below.

- For the average NHS Wales hospital, what is the current turnaround time for testing results, and is it a priority to reduce this time?

The in-laboratory turnaround is approximately 24 hours.
- To what extent is NHS Wales interested in purchasing rapid, point-of-care testing?

NHS Wales currently uses 12 different testing platforms which include rapid (<1.5 hours) low throughput platforms and longer high throughput platforms. Rapid Point-of-Care undergo evaluation as they become available.
- Are costs for current tests a concern for NHS Wales?

NHS Wales is made up of Health Boards and Trusts. Cost is a factor for PHW, we cannot comment for other Health Boards and Trusts in Wales.

- What is the current accuracy of testing?

The level of detection of the platforms currently used is in the range 1-10 RNA copies/reaction.

- What would an ideal COVID-19 diagnostic look like? What considerations would you value most? (speed, accuracy, cost, etc.)

There are a number of different use cases that would require different diagnostic performance.

All tests would ideally be highly sensitive and specific, quantitative, and rapid.

There is need for a simple rapid test that can be performed at the point of care.

This would need little training or skill to perform.

There is also a need for high throughput testing platforms.

There is a need for multiplex syndromic testing for a range of respiratory targets including influenza as well as COVID-19

- What are the current logistics related to testing? Is testing conducted at the hospital gate, only in the ER, etc.? How frequently is testing done?

Testing of symptomatic individuals occurs in hospitals (wherever the patient is identified as having symptoms), and for individuals in the community, through Coronavirus Testing Units, Mobile Testing Units, Local Testing Units, Home Testing, and Care-Home Testing.

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, 3, Number 2, Capital Quarter, Tyndall Street, Cardiff, CF10 4BZ.

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

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