



Ref: ATISN 20324

27 March 2024

Dear ,

### **ATISN 20324 – Necrotising Fasciitis in Wales**

Thank you for your email which was received on 1 March 2024 and has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act (2000). You requested the following.

1. *How many people in Wales have had necrotising fasciitis in Wales during 2022/23*
2. *What work is being done by health boards to ensure GPs are familiar with it*

### **Our Response**

1. The annual Admitted Patient Care data table presents analyses of the Admitted Patient Care Database for Wales (Admitted Patient Care) which is collated, validated and stored by Digital Health and Care Wales (DHCW) on behalf of the Welsh Government and the NHS in Wales. It is a rich source of information about patients admitted to hospitals in Wales. Data for necrotising fasciitis is provided by health board area in the attached table (search M726 or necrotizing fasciitis):  
<https://dhw.nhs.wales/information-services/information-delivery/annual-pedw-data-tables/hospital-admissions-publications-tables/primary-diagnosis-4-character-by-lhb-of-residence-welsh-residence-2022-23>
2. Necrotising fasciitis is a rare infection of the fascia, a layer of connective tissue that lies between muscle and the skin. It is difficult to recognise due to non-specific symptoms, can spread quickly and be difficult to treat. It should be considered in people who present with (or without) fever and wounds that have a disproportionate amount of pain and tenderness in the affected area. Knowledge of necrotising fasciitis by GPs is expected in the Royal College of General Practitioners curriculum, which can be found here: [GP curriculum: Clinical topic guides \(rcgp.org.uk\)](https://www.rcgp.org.uk/clinical-topics/clinical-topics-guides).

There is no specific test for necrotising fasciitis in General Practice, if suspected, the patient will be referred into secondary care for further investigations.

### **Next Steps**

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,  
Welsh Government,  
Cathays Park,  
Cardiff,  
CF10 3NQ  
or Email: [Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales](mailto:Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales)

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office,  
Wycliffe House,  
Water Lane,  
Wilmslow,  
Cheshire,  
SK9 5AF

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely,