

Eluned Morgan AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our ref: WQ88630

Adam Price MS
Senedd Constituency Member for Carmarthen East and Dinefwr

Adam.Price@senedd.wales

25 July 2023

Dear Adam,

Thank you for your recent written question asking me to confirm a) the target times for appointments for neurological spinal assessments with a consultant following an urgent referral and b) what percentage of appointments made fall within that target time.

While we expect clinicians to apply clinical guidance such as NICE where it is appropriate, we hold the NHS accountable for delivery of our national generic targets. The overall aim of our national guidance is that patients should wait the shortest time possible in line with their clinically assessed need. The classification of a referral as urgent is a clinically made decision which will result in a shortening of the timescale to appointment, which can vary dependent on the condition, and is not measured within our RTT pathways. The decision on speed of appointment will be made locally by the clinical teams.

The Welsh Government does not hold the level of detail you requested down to particular outpatients waits by condition. From the 111 website the planned care data indicates that the average wait for first OPA waits for neurology as of April 2023 data ranges from 12 weeks at Swansea Bay University Health Board, to 24 weeks at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board. We would expect urgent waits to wait less than the average, as the average is taken from all waits urgent and routine.

Yours sincerely,

Eluned Morgan AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.