

THE FUTURE OF VASCULAR SERVICES IN SOUTH EAST WALES



ANEURIN BEVAN UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD; CARDIFF & VALE
UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD; CWM TAF MORGANNWG UNIVERSITY
HEALTH BOARD; POWYS TEACHING HEALTH BOARD



WHAT ARE VASCULAR SERVICES?

- **Vascular** disease is any condition that affects the network of your blood vessels. This network is known as your **vascular** or circulatory system. The main aim of vascular services is to reconstruct, unblock or bypass arteries to restore blood flow to organs. These are often one off procedures, in the main, to reduce the risk of sudden death, prevent stroke, reduce the risk of amputation and improve function. Vascular services also provide support to patients with other problems such as kidney disease



WHAT ARE VASCULAR SERVICES?



- Vascular disorders can reduce the amount of blood reaching the limbs, brain or other organs, causing for example severe pain on walking or strokes. Additionally vascular abnormalities can cause sudden, life threatening, blood loss if abnormally enlarged arteries burst. Vascular specialists also support other specialties, such as major trauma, cardiology, diabetic medicine, stroke medicine, kidney dialysis and chemotherapy.

WHY ARE WE TALKING ABOUT THEM?

- There are lots of challenges facing the services which are making them difficult to run from all of the hospitals that they currently do.
- The challenges the services are facing are
 - A growing need for the service
 - Standards that say there is a need for a larger population to be served that is currently the case across our hospitals
 - Unable to meet all of the quality standards required
 - Difficulty in getting and keeping the workforce needed
 - Services are spread too thinly across South East Wales
 - Patient outcomes could be better
- We would like to join these up in a better way
- By doing so, we would have similar arrangements to those already in place in South West Wales and North Wales



WHO IS INVOLVED?

- This engagement opportunity is being jointly led by all of the health organisations that secure vascular services for their populations:
 - Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
 - Cardiff & Vale University Health Board
 - Cwm Taf Morgannwg Teaching Health Board
 - Powys Teaching Health Board
- The populations affected are:
 - Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport. Torfaen
 - Cardiff & Vale of Glamorgan
 - Rhondda, Cynon Taff & Merthyr (Bridgend part of South West Wales Network)
 - South Powys (other parts of Powys served by South West/North Wales Networks as well as networks in England)

FOCUS OF ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

The future configuration of vascular services in South East Wales

Specifically: To start a discussion with citizens across South East Wales about how Vascular services are organised in the future. It aims to share information about :

- What vascular services are
- Which people may be in need of vascular care
- How vascular services are provided now
- The challenges facing vascular services at the current time
- The options we have started to consider about how we could respond to these challenges
- Is there a preference for how we organise services?
- What may be the advantages and disadvantages of any future changes



WHO NEEDS VASCULAR SERVICES?



Patients who receive vascular services may have:

- Had a stroke and are at risk of having further strokes
- Blocked arteries in the legs causing pain which may deteriorate further and threaten the leg
- A bulge in the wall of the bodys main artery which needs repair to prevent it rupturing
- Untreated or untreatable arterial blockages which mean they need an amputation
- There are approximately 1300 appointments/operations undertaken every year in the South East Wales area



HOW ARE SERVICES PROVIDED NOW?

- Services are provided from
 - University Hospital Wales, Cardiff
 - Royal Glamorgan Hospital Llantrisant (see note below)
 - Grange University Hospital Cwmbran

At the time of writing there is an urgent temporary arrangement in place for Cwm Taf Morgannwg residents. Patients are currently being seen in either Aneurin Bevan University Health Board or Cwm Taf Morgannwg Teaching Health Board as the service became undeliverable at the end of 2020.



HOW DO WE DO?



- A measure of how well organisations do is kept and reported by the National Vascular Registry. They report against 5 key areas:
 - An **abdominal aortic aneurysm** (AAA) is a bulge or swelling in the **aorta**, the main blood vessel that runs from the heart down through the chest and tummy
 - A **carotid endarterectomy** is a surgical procedure to unblock a carotid artery.
 - **Peripheral artery bypass** is surgery to reroute the blood supply around a blocked **artery** in one of your legs
 - **Angioplasty** is a **procedure** to open narrowed or blocked blood vessels that supply blood to your legs
 - **Major lower limb amputation**
- If you are interested in learning more about this, the information is publically available at XXXXXXXXX



OUR DOCTORS HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT THESE SERVICES FOR SOME TIME

We do ok on the outcomes but think we could do better by changing the way our services are organised

We don't have the right number of people to treat to keep the skills we need by working separately

Developing a networked arrangement for vascular services would bring South East Wales into line with other parts of Wales

It would be better if we could do all of the operations in one place to make best use of workforce and keep the right level of skill

IN FACT THEIR DISCUSSIONS GO BACK TO 2014

- Taking account National guidance and best practice, they looked at the best way to organise services
- They assessed all of the options possible against the following:
 - Quality & Safety (highest priority)
 - Acceptability
 - Strategic Fit
 - Sustainability (ability for the services to be fit for now and the future)
 - Access
 - Achievability



THEY REACHED COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT

- That the best way to provide vascular services in the future would be via a hub and spoke model.
- This would mean that all major vascular operations are done in one hospital
- It would not change people going to their local hospitals for any work/advice before an operation or after the operation for recovery and rehabilitation
- It would mean best use of skill and staff
- It would mean better outcomes for patients



HAVE WE GIVEN THOUGHT TO WHERE THE HUB MAY BE?

- Yes – there are lots of things to consider which include the need for a range of other services to be on the same site (eg Major trauma services)
- Having considered these and the location of those other services, the only viable option for a hub is University Hospital Wales, Cardiff



WHAT ABOUT THE SPOKES?

- Spoke hospitals will be maintained at:
 - Royal Gwent Hospital and Grange University Hospital
 - Royal Glamorgan Hospital
 - Llandough University Hospital Wales
- Rehabilitation will continue to take place through all communities and local hospitals across the region



TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

- The document you have just read is a summary of a much larger piece of work. If you are interested in more detail you can access it via XXXXX
- We'd like to hear your thoughts on the information we have shared.
- If you would like to have your thoughts know, please send them to (insert details) by xxxx
- There are some questions that follow which we would really like a view on, but please don't let that prevent you from telling us anything more

