

Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTHB_138_19

You asked:

Please provide a list of the hospitals within the remit of the Cwm Taf Health Board which have a Specialist Stroke Unit (by which we mean a stroke unit with a 24 hours a day/7 days a week available team with access to a scanner and operator capable of triage for thrombotic / hemorrhagic stroke identification and location, presence of readily available infusion products and neurologist on call and follow up care).

In respect of each Specialist Stroke Unit on the list that you provide, please include:

1. The address of the Stroke Unit;
2. Their emergency telephone number (or, where there is no such number available, a telephone number for the hospital switchboard on which the relevant Stroke Unit may be contacted); and
3. If the capability to use surgical techniques to remove some thromboses via catheter is available in the relevant Specialist Stroke Unit (or if only available in certain more specialised stroke units please identify the units where such techniques are available).

Our response:

With regards to the information request for the information outlined above I can advise you that there are two acute stroke units within Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board that accepts ischaemic and haemorrhagic strokes 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. One is based at Prince Charles Hospital and the other in Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend.

The full addresses and contact numbers are detailed below:

- Prince Charles Hospital, Merthyr Tydfil, CF47 9DT. Switchboard: 01685 721721.
- Princess of Wales Hospital, Coity Road, Bridgend, CF31 1RQ. Switchboard: 01656 752752.

Princess of Wales Hospital has a specialist combined acute and rehab stroke unit. There is 24/7 access to scanner and operator triage for thrombotic/haemorrhagic stroke identification Specialist stroke consultant provision is available Monday – Friday 9-5. Thrombolysis is available 24/7, provided by the emergency department team and the on-call medical team. Stroke patients are managed and followed up by two Specialist Stroke Consultants who are also available for telephone advice out of hours. The Princess of Wales Hospital has a visiting neurology services provided in partnership with the Swansea Bay University Health Board.

Prince Charles Hospital has a specialist acute stroke unit with 24/7 access to scanner and operator triage for thrombotic/haemorrhagic stroke identification. The thrombolysis service at Prince Charles Hospital is also 24/7. Specialist Stroke Consultant cover is available between Monday to Friday 9 am to 5 pm with an out of hours consultant cover provided in partnership with Cardiff and Vale UHB. There is a specialist ongoing rehabilitation service based at Ysbyty Cwm Rhondda

in Llwynypia. Prince Charles has a visiting neurological service which is provided in partnership with Cardiff and Vale UHB.

For both sites, patients meeting the requirements for thrombectomy for an ischaemic stroke can be referred to the Acute Stroke Unit at Cardiff and Vale UHB, week days between 9 am and 5 pm, interventional neuroradiology availability permitting. Alternatively patients can be referred to Bristol Royal Infirmary week days between 9 am and 5 pm, if Cardiff is unable to provide a service. Currently, there is no out of hours service for patients in South Wales requiring thrombectomy.

The Welsh Specialised Service Committee (WHSSC) has the remit for commissioning thrombectomy services from April 2019. Funding has been approved and we are currently awaiting the appointment of further interventional neuroradiologists in the University Hospital of Wales for a robust 24/7 service to be set up for the benefit of all patients in South Wales.