

You asked:

1. Who are district nurses answerable to - the Health Board or the GP?

Our District Nurses are all contracted employees of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB and therefore are accountable to the Health Board for the service they provide. They work alongside our GP colleagues in partnership to care for the patients on their caseloads.

2. How many district nurses are currently on rota within your health board area - both FT and PT?

We have a funded establishment of 225.81 whole time equivalent Registered Nurses for the Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB. This equates to 253 nurses by actual head count. This resource provides a 24 hour / 365 day nursing response across the Health Board.

3. What is the chain of command with regard to district nurses working in GP clusters?

Each District Nursing Team is led by a Team Leader and a designated Deputy. Team Leaders are line managed by a Senior Nurse with a responsibility for a number of teams within each of our Localities. We have a Senior Nurse for the Merthyr & Cynon Localities and another Senior Nurse for the Rhondda & Taf Ely Localities. In the Bridgend area we have an integrated model of care whereby we operate services in three "networks".

Each network is led by a Network Manager. Overall support for the Senior Nurses/Network Managers is provided by a Deputy Head Nursing and Head of Nursing (Primary Care & Localities).

4. What procedures do district nurses have to follow when responding to emergency care in their area?

The District Nursing Service exists to provide planned nursing support to patients in their own homes. Wherever possible however, the District Nurses will aim to respond as quickly as they can to a need for care and support particularly in the case of, for example, a patient requiring end of life care or those patients experiencing pain due to a blocked catheter. In such cases our response time aims to be within four hours.

5. Can individual GPs and surgeries ask for district nurses to attend emergency care?

The District Nursing Service is not resourced or equipped to provide emergency care and therefore it does not form part of the emergency services.