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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
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University Health Board



Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_583_25

You asked:

Please can you respond with answers to the following questions regarding Thrombectomy Services under the freedom of information act.

1. **Withybush Hospital is commissioned with Southmead Hospital, Bristol to accept stroke patients for Thrombectomys, please can you confirm what date this service started?**

The NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee (NWJCC) formerly The Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee has been responsible for commissioning Mechanical Thrombectomy for the Welsh population on behalf of the seven Health Boards (HBs) since April 2019. Prior to that date, Health Boards were responsible for commissioning Mechanical Thrombectomy for their respective populations. Thrombectomy services in South Wales had been provided at University Hospital Wales by Cardiff and Vale University Health Board in a limited capacity prior NWJCC taking commissioning responsibility.

2. **Please can you confirm the reasons why there is no commission in place for patient referrals from Withybush Hospital for thrombectomys with Southmead Hospital between 10pm and 6am?**

The NWJCC currently commissions a Mechanical Thrombectomy service between the hours of 6am to midnight 7 days a week from Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and North Bristol NHS Trust for the population of South and South West Wales.

As of July 2025, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board have been commissioned to provide a Mechanical Thrombectomy Service between 9am to 5pm (Monday to Friday) with The North Bristol NHS Trust providing cover for patients from 6am to 9am and 5pm to midnight Monday to Friday, and 6am to midnight on weekends.

The North Bristol NHS Trust requires patients from South and West Wales to arrive by 10pm, which is taken into consideration when accepting patients, so they can be operated on by midnight.

2a. **Who made that decision to not have a service?**

No decision has been taken 'not to have a service'. The NWJCC has committed to the commissioning of a 24/7 service and is continuing to work with providers to extend the services availability through a 4-stage plan. The first phase having commenced in July 2025 and providing us with the arrangements currently in place.

The NWJCC continue to consider the most timely and effective option for securing 24/7 access that can be put in place as soon as possible and the current arrangements described above reflect the provider capacity available to the NWJCC at the current time.

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board are currently reviewing the existing plan and developing a business case detailing how they would like to extend cover moving forward. This will then be then be considered by the NWJCC as the responsible commissioner.

The NWJCC's aspiration is to commission a fully operational 24/7 thrombectomy service for South Wales by 2028/29.

2b. And is there a patient safety report or analysis report to back the reasons no commission is in place? If so can I have a copy of this?

The NWJCC does not hold this information.

3. Since the Agreement came into place for Thrombectomys, with Bristol, how many patients from Withybush were declined due to being referred outside the commissioned hours? Can the figures be broken down into monthly?

The NWJCC does not hold this information.

4. Of those declined referrals, what were the outcomes of those patients? Can the reasons be broken down?

The NWJCC does not hold this information.

5. Why is there no service in place other than Bristol for stroke patients to have thrombectomys if between 10pm and 6am due to Bristol declining them? Due to patients being in life and death situations.

Please refer to the response outlined in response to question 2a.