



Critical & High Dependency Care provision across Carmarthenshire

Lead Director: Andrew Carruthers

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SITUATION

- Inability to sustain safe Intensive Critical Care (ICC) cover across Carmarthenshire
- No incidents have been recorded
- Executive Team temporarily restricted level 3 access to Prince Philip Hospital (PPH)
- Agency cover not available
- All Wales Assistance requested but not available
- Cross site cover not available due to current anaesthetic workforce

Site	Current workforce
PPH/GGH	2 Consultant Vacancies (existing) & 5 Vacancies (new DSU at PPH)
WGH	Fully staffed with no vacancies
BGH	3 Consultant Vacancies (full skill set required)

- Robust advertising campaign continues.
- Continued recruitment challenges due to volume of comparable roles available across UK

RISKS

- In GGH/PPH 5 Consultants cover an 8-person rota (sickness/ + other factors)
- Additional General Consultant helps with half days and on call
- Current rota does not meet:
 - Royal College approval
 - Guidelines for Provision of Intensive Care Services (GPICS)
 - Appointed job plans
- Current situation impacts ability to recruit
- Current situation predicted to remain until at least Q1 23/24.

MITIGATIONS 1/2

- Non-resident on-call cover & General anaesthetist supports certain sessions
- Shift to GGH single level 3 location (to support better backfill)
- Discussions for interim western hub arrangement to support 10-12 transfer p/m

MITIGATION 2/2

- Continued communication with staff in Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and all affected clinical staff, the critical care network, Welsh Government (WG) and the Community Health Council (CHC).
- Meetings with Anaesthetic, Medical and ICU leadership to agree interim patient flow plan – pending agreed interim Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). Includes Elective Surgery, Medical management and management of deterioration patient pathways
- Request to Critical Care Network for assistance
- Review an interim agreement of additional hourly rates
- Contact Acute Critical Care Transfer Service (ACCTS) to increase GGH transfers.
 - Since August, this year 11 patients have been transferred
- Continued recruitment efforts including utilising MEDACs
- Develop & sustain team of staff to work across sites

Transfers

Date	Transferred
12/08/2022	1
16/08/2022	1
23/08/2022	1
26/08/2022	2
09/09/2022	1
23/09/2022	1
17/11/2022	1
18/11/2022	1
24/11/2022	1
25/11/2022	1
Grand Total	11

The above implemented mitigations have resulted in no incidents being reported

RECOMMENDATION

- QSEC to note continued difficulties with Critical and High Dependency Care provision across Carmarthenshire
- QSEC to note the impact on patient safety and take assurance from the steps taken to mitigate the risks for the population.