



**PWYLLGOR ANSAWDD, DIOGELWCH A PHROFIOD
QUALITY, SAFETY AND EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE**

DYDDIAD Y CYFARFOD: DATE OF MEETING:	10 August 2021
TEITL YR ADRODDIAD: TITLE OF REPORT:	Accessing Emergency Specialist Spinal Services Update
CYFARWYDDWR ARWEINIOL: LEAD DIRECTOR:	Andrew Carruthers, Director of Operations
SWYDDOG ADRODD: REPORTING OFFICER:	Claire Hathaway, Trauma Lead Manager

Pwrpas yr Adroddiad (dewiswch fel yn addas)

Purpose of the Report (select as appropriate)

Er Sicrwydd/For Assurance

**ADRODDIAD SCAA
SBAR REPORT**

Sefyllfa / Situation

Access to emergency spinal services has historically proven difficult, despite the existence of a Spinal Protocol with Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (C&VUHB) and Swansea Bay University Health Board (SBUHB). While this has been in operation since 2011, transferring patients to the relevant tertiary teams in a timely and safe manner has proven to be challenging.

An update was provided to the Board in February of this year and it was agreed that a further update would be presented to provide assurance that services and positive outcomes were being achieved for Hywel Dda University Health Board residents.

Cefndir / Background

The Spinal Surgery Project was launched in October 2020, with the aim of developing recommendations for a safe, effective and sustainable model for spinal surgery in South and West Wales.

The project had two phases:

- Regional – identifying which elements of spinal surgery should be delivered at a regional level i.e. South East Wales and South West Wales.
- Supraregional – identifying which elements of spinal surgery should be delivered at a supraregional level i.e. South and West Wales.

A series of regional and supraregional working groups were established to develop the project deliverables, each of which were supported by a series of subject-specific task and finish groups.

The task and finish groups had a wide inter-organisational multidisciplinary membership, which enabled them to undertake a holistic assessment of the entire patient pathway. This

included a gap analysis, identification of risks and issues, and recommendations to align each pathway with the ten design principles outlined in *A Healthier Wales*.

The final project report was presented to the NHS Wales Collaborative Executive Group on the 6th April 2021. It made the following recommendations:

1. Services for patients with spinal conditions must be modernised, with patient-centred pathways which are clinically informed and underpinned by value based healthcare principles.
2. The outputs from the Regional and Supraregional working groups should be used to inform the future delivery and commissioning of services for patients with spinal conditions.
3. The working group risk registers and issues logs must be reviewed by the Health Boards within each region in order to agree the actions required to reduce risk to an acceptable level.
4. Health Boards must formalise their commissioning arrangements for spinal conditions.
5. A shadow network should be established as soon as possible, in order to maintain the momentum of the work undertaken to date by the spinal conditions community.
6. An Operational Delivery Network should be established with the operational authority to:
 - Maintain and coordinate patient flow across the spinal surgery pathway.
 - Lead the development, and coordinate implementation and delivery of standards and pathways.
 - Promote and support cross-organisational and clinical multi-professional collaboration.

The recommendations were accepted by the Collaborative Executive Group, and C&VUHB and SBUHB were asked to develop a business case to establish an operational delivery network for spinal services through their Regional and Specialised Services Provider Planning Partnership.

To progress this work, the Regional and Specialised Services Provider Planning Partnership has agreed to establish a shadow network on a non-recurrent basis, within existing resources. The shadow network will be time limited, and its focus will be to work with the wider spinal community to:

- Develop the business case for the Operational Delivery Network (ODN)
- Develop the definitive ODN model and governance framework
- Progress specific defined areas of work:
 - Development of a business case for electronic referral systems;
 - Establishing clinical pathways for the management of spinal cord injury not requiring surgery;
 - Development of standards for the management of suspected and confirmed *Cauda Equina*;
 - Reviewing trauma pathways in collaboration with the Major Trauma Network.

A shadow network has been established which has a similar configuration to the eventual network in terms of interim care pathways. The next stage will be to 'go live' with the actual network.

Asesiad / Assessment

Trauma & Orthopaedic Consultants from across the Health Board have been actively involved in the working groups, thereby providing views and considerations which reflect the geographical area of Hywel Dda. At present the risks to patients requiring access to the emergency spinal service is minimal. Clearer pathways have aided the acceptance of such patients and provided adequate advice for those patients that remain within our Health Board setting.

Argymhelliad / Recommendation

Quality, Safety and Experience Committee is asked to seek assurance that ongoing work in this area continues and that the introduction of the Spinal Pathways through the Major Trauma Network, along with the identified work streams being explored through the South Wales Spinal Network team, is continuing to improve patient experience in this specialised area.

Amcanion: (rhaid cwblhau)

Objectives: (must be completed)

Committee ToR Reference: Cyfeirnod Cylch Gorchwyl y Pwyllgor:	2.3 Provide assurance that the Board has an effective strategy and delivery plan(s) for improving the quality and safety of care patients receive, commissioning quality and safety impact assessments where considered appropriate.
Cyfeirnod Cofrestr Risg Datix a Sgôr Cyfredol: Datix Risk Register Reference and Score:	855 (Score 12) - Risk that the UHB will be unable to address the issues that arise in non-COVID-19 related services and support functions
Safon(au) Gofal ac Iechyd: Health and Care Standard(s):	All Health & Care Standards Apply

Effaith/Impact:

Ariannol / Financial: Ansawdd / Patient Care: Gweithlu / Workforce: Risg / Risk: Cyfreithiol / Legal: Enw Da / Reputational: Gyfrinachedd / Privacy: Cydraddoldeb / Equality:	Not Applicable
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