



Quality, Safety and Experience Committee Radiology Deep Dive Presentation 7th December 2021

Situation

- Six whole time equivalent (WTE) Radiologist vacancies – the service is reliant upon nine substantive Radiologists, three short and one long term locum and 3 global fellows
- During 2020, the Royal College of Radiologists census stated that the current 33% Clinical Radiologist shortfall is forecast to rise to 44% by 2024
- Demand for complex imaging (CT/MRI) continues to increase year on year (by approximately 10% per annum)
- Radiographer and Sonographer vacancies are impacting service provision
- Reduced capacity due to COVID-19
- Ageing equipment and regular breakdowns
- An increased demand for diagnostics is outstripping current capacity
- The Health Board (HB) is unable to meet reporting requirements 'in-house'
- Expenditure for outsourcing and insourcing continues to rise

Risks and Mitigation

- Unsustainable Out of Hours (OOH) service across CT, MRI and General for all sites
- Recruitment of Staff- Effective streamlining/advertising
- Staffing – Normal hours
- The Ultrasound Service is unable to address routine examinations
- Reporting delays- Everlight are unable to meet demands
- Age of Equipment
- MRI Backlog (mobile solutions scarce)- Targeted Additional Activity
- Unsustainable demand for diagnostic imaging - gatekeeping in hours and OOH

Risks and Mitigation

OOH DEMAND 8pm-8am

Count of AccessionNumber	Provider	Years		AttendanceDate		Grand Total
		2020	2021	2020	2021	
ExamGroupCode	Provider	Jan	Jun	Oct		
CT	BGH	124	72	115	311	
	GGH	253	223	308	784	
	PPH	99	75	62	236	
	WGH	154	174	184	512	
CT Total		630	544	669	1843	
FLUOROSCOPY	BGH	1	1		2	
	GGH	2	2	1	5	
	WGH	3	2	1	6	
FLUOROSCOPY Total		6	5	2	13	
MRI	BGH	2		2	4	
	GGH	72	20	13	105	
	PPH	5		1	6	
	WGH		2		2	
MRI Total		79	22	16	117	
X-RAY	BGH	361	215	288	864	
	GGH	797	690	753	2240	
	PPH	547	340	434	1321	
	WGH	587	454	535	1576	
X-RAY Total		2292	1699	2010	6001	
Grand Total		3007	2270	2697	7974	

Initiatives and Positives

- Improvement in streamlining recruitment of newly qualified Radiographers
- Role extension of Radiographers /Sonographers to elevate Radiologist capacity
- Implementation of Radiography shift system
- Obstetric Ultrasound Service re-design
- Development of Quality and Governance Lead
- Rolling plan of succession training e.g. plain film reporting
- Completion of Withybush General Hospital (WGH) MRI Scanner. Installation of second CT scanner at Glangwili General Hospital (GGH) and replacement of CT scanner at WGH. Further capital replacement monies have been agreed.
- Utilisation of 'CT in a Box' to tackle the backlog and reduce costs while replacement works undertaken- possibility of permanent site following installation.
- CT Assistant role development- e.g. cannulation insertion

Next Steps

- Continue with equipment replacements
- Continue with staff development at all levels
- Exploring new ways to recruit
- Exploring new models of service delivery
- New Head of Radiology and very enthusiastic team of site leads!

Recommendation

- For the Committee to take an assurance from the presentation provided.