

Matching the Best in the World—Challenges Facing Hospital Services in South Wales

Patients in South Wales deserve to have access to the best healthcare. But the way some specialist hospital services are currently organised means patients are not always getting the best possible services or enjoying the best results.

This means we can no longer carry on as we are—we have to change the way some specialist hospital services are provided if patients are to get the best care all of the time.

Most hospital care is provided during the working day, Monday to Friday, and, generally speaking, outcomes are very good. But there is some evidence to suggest quality of care and outcomes can vary at night and at weekends.

We want patients to have access to the same standard of quality care wherever they live and whatever day of the week it is—we want you to have access to consultant-led care around the clock and the best possible outcomes all of the time.

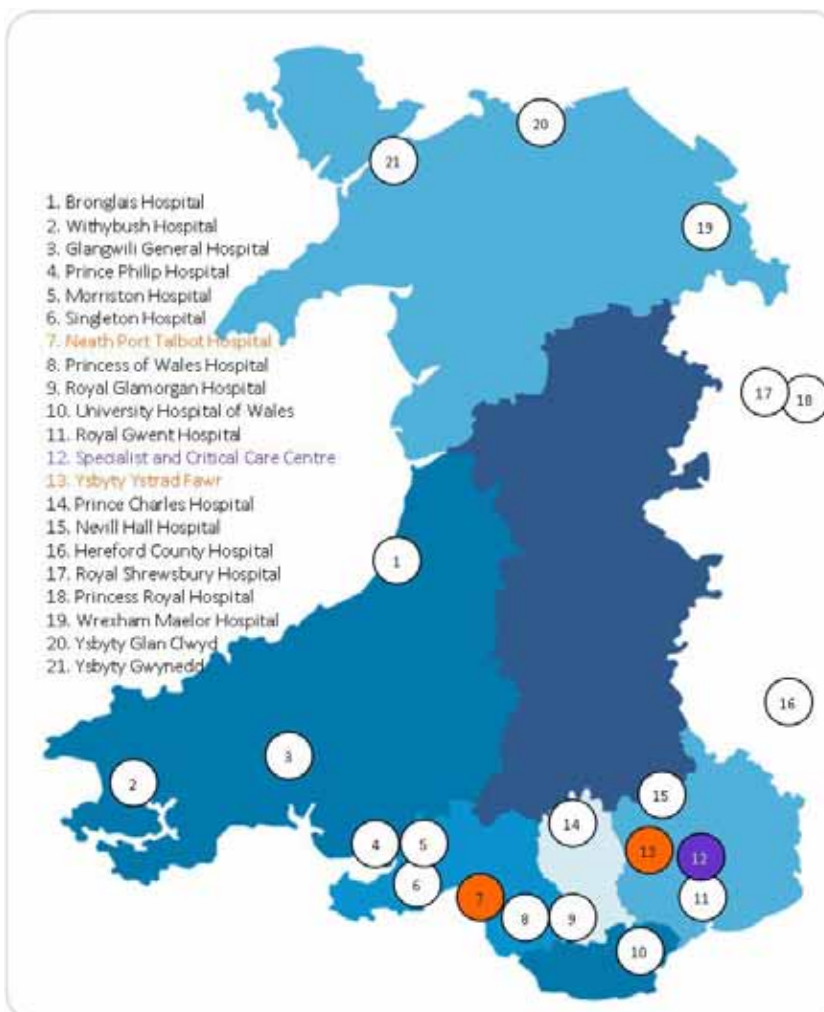
Wales, like the rest of the UK, is struggling with a shortage of doctors in some key services. Some of these problems are longstanding and are difficult to solve because of the way our hospital services are organised.

Changes in the way doctors and other health-care professionals are trained have also had an impact on the availability of key staff and on patient outcomes.

We are now facing the prospect that there may not be enough doctors with the right specialist skills available to treat patients. We cannot allow such a situation to develop.

The NHS has already had to take emergency action to make urgent changes to services because of a shortage of medical and clinical staff—in the most recent case, emergency medical care has been stopped at Neath Port Talbot Hospital.

We want to create stable, safe and sustainable health services, which care for patients today, train tomorrow's healthcare staff, including doctors, and meet the future needs of people living in South Wales.





What can we do to make services stable, safe and sustainable?

Our doctors, nurses, midwives, therapists and managers have been discussing how the NHS responds to these recruitment and financial problems at the same time as improving the quality and standard of care across South Wales.

More than 300 clinicians have met regularly at a series of clinical summits and conferences since the start of 2012. They believe some specialist hospital services need to be concentrated on fewer sites if we are to ensure everyone has the best care and the best possible outcomes, whatever time of day or day of the year.

They believe access to 24/7 consultant-led accident and emergency care, paediatric and neonatal and obstetric services is critical to ensure patients get the best quality care. They also believe these services should be concentrated on either four or five hospital sites in South Wales.

We have further work to do to test whether the same range of services would be available on both the four and five-hospital site models. **Any changes to these specialist hospital services will only affect a small proportion of patients — the sickest and most seriously injured — the majority of people will continue to receive care in their local hospital.**

What could this look like?

The possible scenarios for concentrating 24/7 consultant-led paediatrics, obstetrics, neonatal and A&E care on four or five hospital sites are:

Scenario 4.1	Scenario 4.2	Scenario 4.3
UHW/University Hospital Llandough	UHW/University Hospital Llandough	UHW/University Hospital Llandough
SCCC *	SCCC *	SCCC *
Morrison Hospital	Morrison Hospital	Morrison Hospital
Prince Charles Hospital	Princess of Wales Hospital	Royal Glamorgan Hospital
Scenario 5.1	Scenario 5.2	Scenario 5.3
UHW/University Hospital Llandough	UHW/University Hospital Llandough	UHW/University Hospital Llandough
SCCC *	SCCC *	SCCC *
Morrison Hospital	Morrison Hospital	Morrison Hospital
Prince Charles Hospital	Prince Charles Hospital	Princess of Wales Hospital
Princess of Wales Hospital	Royal Glamorgan Hospital	Royal Glamorgan Hospital

*The Specialist and Critical Care Centre (SCCC) is planned near Cwmbran to replace specialist services provided at the Royal Gwent and Nevill Hall hospitals

No decisions have yet been made. We want to know what you think about the issues facing the NHS and the possible scenarios for concentrating 24/7 consultant-led care in South Wales.



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