

**EITEM AGENDA / AGENDA ITEM: 4**

<b>Cyd-bwyllgor Canolbarth Cymru ar gyfer Iechyd a Gofal / Mid Wales Joint Committee for Health and Care</b>	
<b>Enw'r Is-Grŵp: Name of Sub-Group:</b>	Mid Wales Clinical Advisory Group
<b>Cadeirydd y Is-Grŵp: Chair of Sub-Group:</b>	Dr Kate Wright, Lead Clinical Executive Director for the Mid Wales Joint Committee and Executive Medical Director for Powys Teaching Health Board
<b>Dyddiad y Cyfarfod Is-Grŵp diwethaf: Date of last Sub-Group Meeting:</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
<b>Cyfnod Adrodd: Reporting Period:</b>	January to March 2025
<p><b>Y Penderfyniadau a'r Materion a Ystyriodd yr Is-Grŵp: Key Decisions and Matters Considered by the Sub-Group:</b></p> <p>The Mid Wales Clinical Advisory Group met on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2025 and although the meeting was not quorate the decision was taken to proceed due to the previous three meetings being cancelled due to low attendance.</p> <p><b>Clinical priorities 2024/25</b></p> <p><b>1. Urology</b></p> <p><i>Prostate cancer PSA pathway</i></p> <p>The Mid Wales Urology group's first area of focus has been the prostate cancer PSA pathway. Following a review it has been confirmed that there is a nationally agreed pathway in place and that these pathways are well established. As such the group have concluded that no further work is required on pathway development.</p> <p>However, the group have noted that there is need to ensure consistent implementation of the nationally agreed mechanism across the region, in particular, the process in place for the monitoring and surveillance of PSA levels for i) patients who have high PSA levels investigated with no prostate cancer detected and ii) patients with high PSA levels who have been treated for prostate cancer. Currently, these patients are transferred over to the management of primary care with practices having their own individual process in place which is not consistent with each other.</p> <p>A meeting of Health Board Consultants and GP Cluster leads was held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2024 to consider the current administration systems in place for the monitoring and surveillance of these two groups of patients. It was noted that surveillance did not fall under GMS work as this was classed as screening and work is currently being undertaken to ascertain whether this is a local issue or a national issue.</p> <p>As part of the HealthPathways work, Hywel Dda University Health Board have led on the development of the Urology pathway including prostate cancer and a prostate cancer diagnosis pathway has been agreed for the on-line tool. The Hywel Dda HealthPathways team have advised that they will raise with the national team the issues regarding surveillance which have been identified by the Mid Wales Urology group team and that this is as an area</p>	

lacking clarity which may need a nationally agreed HealthPathway. Also a NOP for prostate cancer is currently being agreed nationally and the Hywel Dda HealthPathways team have suggested that contact is made with National Primary Care lead to ascertain whether the NOP provides clarity over the issues raised regarding surveillance.

### *Trial Without Catheter*

The Mid Wales Clinical Advisory Group agreed with the Urology group's recommendation that the next area of focus will be Trial Without Catheter (TWOC) for which a task and finish group has been established and has met three times. The Mid Wales TWOC task and finish group's work has included a discovery process to identify issues and challenges and identify available opportunities to address any gaps in the service. Key points to note from the group include:

- Powys Teaching Health Board and Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Boards have well established models in place for their community TWOC services. Hywel Dda University Health Board introduced community TWOC clinics in three locations, one per county, at the end of May 2024. The introduction of these clinics has resulted in a reduction in the TWOC waiting list.
- A TWOC clinic has now been introduced at the Medical Day Unit, Bronglais Hospital, for patients from Mid Wales who are on the Hywel Dda Urology waiting list. Clinics commenced in September 2024 and are held three times a month.
- For patients presenting at Bronglais Accident & Emergency staff have found it difficult to navigate the pathway as patients attending were from the three Mid Wales counties (Ceredigion, Powys, South Gwynedd). A central Hywel Dda process/point of contact, Urology triage team, for referring patients onwards to the correct Health Board service/contact is in place and details of the process to be followed has been developed for cascading to departments.
- There were gaps in communication between the three Health Board teams. Mechanisms have been put in place to ensure that patient details are passed between teams more effectively.
- There is currently no provision in the Hywel Dda University Health Board community for providing a TWOC service for housebound patients due to lack of staffing and equipment resources. The GP cluster lead for North Ceredigion discussed with GP cluster colleagues whether they would be interested in leading a 3 month pilot for a TWOC service for housebound patients. However, they felt that this was not GMS work and that practices were already struggling with their workloads. A review of those on the list is being undertaken to understand the numbers involved and explore available options.
- The group discussed the Swansea Bay University Health Board's pathway for patients to self-remove catheters after prostatectomy. Clarification is being sought on the onward pathway for Hywel Dda patients who may present to an A&E department in Hywel Dda and whether they needed to be signposted back to Swansea Bay for any further action and if so, what would the process be.

## **2. Rheumatology**

The Hywel Dda University Health Board Consultant Rheumatologist, based at Bronglais General Hospital, is now in post. The Joint Committee Lead Clinical Director has had initial discussions with the Consultant Rheumatologist regarding a potential future regional model with a second meeting to be arranged to discuss this further.

### **3. Palliative Care**

In September 2023, feedback provided by Mid Wales palliative care leads was submitted to the National Palliative Care and End of Life Programme team regarding the challenges faced around the delivery of palliative care services in Mid Wales. The Joint Committee team met with the national team in July 2024 to discuss what further support they required on ensuring the Mid Wales position was considered. Following this the Joint Committee team facilitated two meetings between the national team and Mid Wales Health Board palliative care leads to allow them to share the latest position on current palliative care pathways and service provision across Mid Wales for informing the on-going work being undertaken by the National Palliative Care and End of Life Programme.

A further meeting between the national team and Mid Wales palliative care leads was planned for 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024 to coincide with the publication of the national service specification. However, this meeting was postponed as the process of developing the service specification has been slower than hoped due to external constraints. The draft service specification is currently being reviewed to ensure it fully aligns with the intended approach and stakeholder expectations. Following this the service specification will be distributed to stakeholders for comment with the consultation to run for 6 weeks. A meeting between the national team and Mid Wales palliative care leads will be arranged during the consultation period for the service specification.

#### **Review of terms of reference and future approach for meetings**

The group discussed the review of the Mid Wales Clinical Advisory Group terms of reference and membership and the future approach for meetings. It was agreed that the membership be reviewed and reduced to a core group with meetings to focus on a specific service area / pathway with relevant organisational representatives invited to attend in addition to the core group. Members have been asked for their feedback on this approach and their nominations for core group membership. A response is still awaited from some organisations.

The revised draft terms of reference and membership will be presented to the next meeting of the Mid Wales Clinical Advisory Group prior to presenting to the Mid Wales Planning and Delivery Executive Group on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

#### **Future approach to Clinical Priorities**

It has been agreed that rather than the Mid Wales Clinical Advisory Group having a separate set of clinical priorities that in its place the group provides clinical support and advice for the overarching Mid Wales priorities either as identified by the group or as commissioned by the Mid Wales Planning and Delivery Executive Group. This will include those organisational strategic service change programmes and proposals for service areas / pathways where there are implications for Mid Wales. Stroke services has been identified as one area identified requiring consideration by the group. The group have also identified Rheumatology and Dermatology as other areas to review where key pathway work is identified and if capacity allows.

#### ***Materion sydd angen eu cytuno neu trafod ymhellach gan y Cyd-Bwyllgor:***

##### **Items to be referred to the Joint Committee for agreement or discussion:**

Low attendance at meetings and representation from all organisations continues to be challenging. It is hoped that the proposed approach to future meetings will reinvigorate the group.

***Gwaith Cynlluniedig yr Is-Grŵp ar gyfer y cyfnod nesaf:***

**Planned Sub-Group work for the next period:**

- Mid Wales Priorities and Delivery Plan 2025/26
- Strategic Service Change programmes of relevance to the Mid Wales population
- North Powys Wellbeing Programme
- Mid Wales Clinical Advisory Group Terms of Reference and Membership (revised)

***Dyddiad y Cyfarfod Is-Grŵp nesaf:***

**Date of Next Sub-Group Meeting:**

11.00am Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025