

Future arrangements for stroke rehabilitation services

Frequently Asked Questions

Why were stroke rehabilitation services centralised in 2023?

The health board experienced major difficulties in maintaining safe staffing levels (especially medical staff) across the three rehabilitation units at Nevil Hall Hospital, Royal Gwent Hospital and Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr. To ensure consistent and safe services for patients, it was decided to make an urgent service change and centralise stroke rehabilitation at Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr in Ystrad Mynach.

What are the current arrangements?

All inpatient stroke rehabilitation is currently based at Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr in Ystrad Mynach.

What are the Health Board proposals for how the service will be arranged in the future?

Based on the experience of the centralised service over the last 18 months, we think that the best long-term option is to make the temporary arrangements permanent and establish a stroke rehabilitation 'centre of excellence' at Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr.

Why is the Health Board proposing this?

There are several reasons why we think this is the best future option: -

- It will ensure a safe, high quality and sustainable service for years to come
- It has proved to be more efficient, with simpler communication and a wide range of skills all in one place
- It has improved staffing levels and provided stronger cross-cover for absences etc

How will this affect me if I need rehabilitation treatment?

If you are unfortunate enough to have a stroke and require hospital admission for immediate acute care, you will be assessed to understand your rehabilitation needs. If you require specialist rehabilitation in a hospital setting, you will be transferred to the new unit at Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr for your rehabilitation and therapy, to ensure your best possible recovery after your stroke. Not all patients require rehabilitation

in a hospital setting, so you may be referred to the Community Neuro-Rehabilitation Service for support at home, or be discharged home independently.

Will the Health Board support families with transport arrangements to visit their loved ones?

We fully recognise that it can be difficult when needing to rely on public transport to visit relatives. Regular discussions with public transport providers are arranged, to review current arrangements and to see where routes, service frequency etc can be improved.

Additional advice and support are also available from the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS): <https://abuhb.nhs.wales/files/patient-advice-liaison-service-pals/pals-leaflet-v1-2-english-pdf/>