

We have been told that the Gynaecology Ward at YYF has been closed. Can you confirm whether or not the ward has been closed and if it has been closed, is the closure permanent or temporary?

The elective ward at Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr (YYF) is not a dedicated Gynaecology Ward, however the Gynaecology Service has access to beds for women undergoing elective Gynaecology operations. The ward accommodates both male and female surgical patients. This arrangement has existed since the opening of YYF in November 2011.

Elective Gynaecology surgery was suspended at YYF from 13th March 2020 until July 2021. This was to enable the Health Board, in accordance with Welsh Government guidance, to reconfigure clinical accommodation and workforce to divert services and infrastructure to support emergency pressures directly impacted by the pandemic. Surgery continued on alternative hospital sites for emergency gynaecology presentations and for patients on an urgent suspected cancer or clinically urgent pathway. Since the opening of the Grange University Hospital (GUH) in November 2020 all gynaecology patients admitted as an emergency are cared for at GUH.

In September 2021 gynaecology theatre sessions were again suspended at YYF and relocated to the Royal Gwent Hospital (RGH) as the post-operative elective ward was reconfigured to support demand for an increasing number of emergency inpatients. Weekly gynaecology elective surgical activity at YYF resumed in March 2022.