



Case Study

Direct Admission to Community Hospitals

BACKGROUND

From July 2021, there will be the opportunity for some patients within the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board area to be admitted to a community hospital rather than one of our enhanced general local hospitals. There is strong evidence that a percentage of patients do not need acute care, intervention or diagnostic support, but do require a level of support that cannot be provided at home. Patients will be discharged home with support from a community team if required.

AIMS

This service change will enable medical teams to fully assess individuals, carry out extensive tests and provide additional care whilst avoiding the stress of attending an enhanced general local hospital. We understand that home is best for patients so attending a community hospital in the short term and receiving additional support at home will reduce the anxiety of the patients and their family.

The patient will be referred to the Community Resource Team by a GP or Paramedic who will arrange for the admission in a community hospital under their care.

PROCESS

We have brought together professionals across a range of areas including health and local authority in order to learn from the process that existed before, which we were able to build upon. Similar processes have previously worked well, however this initiative will increase the number of individuals who are able to access care this way each week and also increase the sites that are becoming available. We have also successfully linked with WAST to obtain an ambulance which will be dedicated to the programme and will bring patients from their home to the community hospital.

REAL LIFE STORY



Mrs B required a blood transfusion and rather than be admitted into an acute hospital bed she was able to access this treatment in St Woolos, her local community hospital. As the blood transfusion was unable to be carried out as a day case, she received the treatment and was discharged after a one night stay in hospital.

Mrs B said "the staff were marvellous. I was well looked after, felt comfortable and was happy to be there. Following the treatment I felt much better than I had in a long time. I have nothing negative to say at all".

OUTCOMES / NEXT STEPS

Essentially this service will be for a patient who is frail and/or elderly who is generally known to services and needs a period of more intensive support or additional nursing care. It may also prove that the individual has issues with their social set up and needs to be admitted to ensure their safety in the short term.

