

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference FoI/22/430

Stroke pathway

1. What is the stroke pathway for UHW and any copies of any additional guidance on the accepted procedure for patients presenting with a stroke?

- Patients arriving to the Emergency Department with symptoms of stroke are assessed at the earliest opportunity.
- On identification of possible stroke, a CT head scan is completed as soon as possible and the stroke assessment team are alerted.
- Patients arriving during the thrombectomy service operational hours (9am-5pm) with suspected stroke and with symptom onset within 6 hours will also have a CT angiogram scan of the head and neck to image the blood vessels.
- If stroke is identified and the patient is within the urgent time window for treatment with thrombolysis (clot busting drug) and / or is suitable for assessment and referral for mechanical thrombectomy the stroke consultant is contacted urgently.
- Where thrombolysis is clinically appropriate this treatment will be delivered in the Emergency Department.
- Where thrombectomy is clinically appropriate this will be discussed with the interventional neuroradiologist and then delivered in the radiology department.
- Once the emergency assessment and treatment phase is completed, stroke patients are admitted to the acute stroke unit as soon as possible.

2. Please confirm whether UHW offer mechanical thrombectomy (with schedules if this is not offered 24/7) and if no, where would be the closest hospital or Trust be to refer to in the instance that it is not available or falls outside of the hours where it is available.

- Cardiff is currently able to provide a mechanical thrombectomy procedure, but only between the hours of 9am-5pm Monday to Friday provided that the interventional neuroradiologists can accommodate the procedure within their workload.
- All CAVUHB patients also have access to the WHSSC commissioned service at Southmead Hospital, North Bristol NHS Trust. This service operates until 8am-8pm 7 days per week.
- Between 8pm-8am there is currently no access to thrombectomy.