

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request Reference FoI/23/554
Mechanical Thrombectomy Provision at UHW

Information Requested:

Can you please tell me whether there was an appropriate doctor available on duty, or on call, to carry out a mechanical thrombectomy on a stroke patient if it was requested and required between 04.00hrs and 18:00hrs on Thursday 7th March 2019 at University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff? In addition, can you please include in your response a copy of any relevant pathway/guidelines upon which you relied at this time.

Response Details:

Thrombectomy services for Wales patients at Southmead Hospital in Bristol were not commissioned until April 2019. This means that on 7 March 2019 there was no external pathway for University Hospital of Wales (UHW) to refer to. The only opportunity for thrombectomy on that day would have been if an Interventional Neuroradiologist was present at UHW with available facilities to undertake thrombectomy procedures, and indeed if the patient was clinically appropriate and eligible for the procedure.

On the date in question, there was one substantive Interventional Neuroradiologist in post. He was on leave on 6 March 2019, and so he was not available for patients admitted overnight. Had he not been on leave, he would not have been 'on call' for this procedure.