

A3. Accessing the Specialist Spinal Service at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board

Within working week (Monday – Friday, 08.00 – 17.00)

- For Health Boards that employ Spinal Surgeons (Aneurin Bevan HB, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg HB), the initial referral should be made by the Trauma Team to their local Spinal Surgeon for opinion/assessment.
- Where input is required from Cardiff and Vale, this should be made via Spinal Surgeon to Spinal Surgeon referral and the treatment plan agreed. The initial point of contact at UHW should be the Trauma Reg (bleep 5995)
- Where there is no local Spinal Surgeon, the following referral pathway shall be followed:
 - Hywel Dda to ABMU
 - Cwm Taf to Cardiff and Vale
- For Cwm Taf, the initial referral should be made to the Trauma Reg, who can then seek advice from the On-Call Spinal Surgeon

Out of Hours Weekends (Monday to Friday 17.00 – 08.00, and weekends)

- The initial referral should be made from the local Trauma Reg to the Cardiff and Vale Reg (Bleep 5995)
- Referrals for cauda equina from outside Cardiff should be referred to referred directly to the Neurosurgeons
- Input can then be sought from the on-call Spinal Surgeon, and a treatment plan agreed
- Where the need for surgery that night or weekend is identified, the patient will be accepted and transferred to the University Hospital of Wales (subject to available capacity)
- If out of hours surgery is not required, the location and timing of surgery will be agreed between the two Clinical Teams

Supporting arrangements

- Cardiff and Vale will maintain a daily rota for Spinal Surgeons and ensure that the above arrangements are fully understood by medical trainees
- Where there is a failure, it will be resolved by the respective Clinical Directors and escalation to Medical Directors if there are continuing difficulties.