

Chief Executive CONNECTS



Dear Colleague,

18/05/2021

This Thursday 20th May is international Clinical Trials Day, which is an opportunity to reflect on the vital work of our research and development teams.

I couldn't be more proud of the outstanding work and remarkable impact of our R&D teams, and I was pleased last week to pay a visit to our Clinical Trials Facility at UHW and meet some of the team there to acknowledge their work and thank them for their efforts.

R&D staff are often unsung heroes within healthcare, and the vitally important work they do to continuously push forward new treatment opportunities for patients at times goes under the radar. For example, not everybody will be aware of the extent of our R&D teams' outstanding contribution to global research efforts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, recruiting around 2,250 to approximately 25 studies.

Thanks to the team's efforts in March 2020, our Health Board became the first in the UK to open the RECOVERY (Randomised Evaluation of COVID-19 thERapY) trial, which found that the low-dose steroid treatment, Dexamethasone reduces deaths of hospitalised patients with severe respiratory complications of COVID-19. The team were one of the top recruiters to the study - the results of which have saved countless lives.

The team is currently implementing the Combining Influenza and COVID-19 Vaccination Study at the Bayside Mass Vaccination Centre, which is looking at how effective it is to give a COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as the seasonal flu vaccine - the outcome of which could be make a huge difference in a few months' time.

Throughout the pandemic, the team has continued recruiting thousands of patients to hundreds of clinical trials, all striving to identify effective treatments for an exceptionally wide range of patients.

Today's research is tomorrow's treatment, and I hope that you will join me in thanking our R&D staff on International Clinical Trials Day on social media this Thursday, using the hashtags #BePartofResearch and #BodYnRhanOYmchwil, and tagging in the Health Board's social media accounts.



Len Richards
Chief Executive

COVID-19 Vaccine Update

Our current figures are:

- 442,729 total doses (first and second)
- 319,236 first doses – 78% of adult population
- 123,475 second doses – 30% of adult population

This week we will achieve a huge milestone in that all adults aged 18 and over will have been invited for their first vaccine by the 30th May, with letters hitting doorsteps by the end of this week.

This has been a massive undertaking for the team with 78% of our adult population receiving their first dose and 30% receiving both doses.

Anyone who has not been invited so far can either call our booking line on 02921 841234 or complete our [Leave Nobody Behind form](#) on our website and we will get you booked in

Yesterday, the new Minister for Health and Social Services, Eluned Morgan, visited Bayside Mass Vaccination Centre to meet the team and find out more about the vaccination programme.

The Minister spent time at the MVC where we are delivering the Pfizer and Oxford AstraZeneca Vaccines and where the ComFlu trial is taking place this week. The Minister was very complimentary about the work being done and how far the UHB has come in its vaccination efforts.

Clinical Trial

Our Bayside Mass Vaccination Centre is also the only centre in Wales recruiting volunteers for a study looking at the use of COVID-19 vaccines at the same time as the seasonal influenza vaccine.

This study is sponsored by University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust and is running in Cardiff & Vale University Health Board.

If you are aged 18 years or over, and have had your first AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine and have received an appointment letter for your second AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, then you may be eligible to take part in the study.

If you are interested in finding out more, please visit [this website](#), where you can access the Participant Information Leaflet which contains everything you need to know about the study. You can also register to take part by completing the pre-screening questionnaire available through the above link.

International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia

Yesterday was International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia, an important time to reflect on the discrimination and violence that LGBTQ+ people continue to suffer across the world, simply due to who they are.

Cardiff and Vale UHB stands beside LGBTQ+ individuals and communities within our organisation, across Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan, and throughout Wales and beyond. We recognise that our diversity is a strength, and remain committed to instilling a culture within which all patients and staff can feel comfortable being their authentic selves. I have been pleased to see this agenda being pushed forward by our newly established LGBTQ+ staff network.

Their activity has included encouraging staff throughout the organisation to add their pronouns to their email signature, and I'm happy to confirm that I and each of my executive colleagues have done so in recognition that pronouns and using somebody's pronoun correctly is important. To further communicate this message, staff are also now able to include their pronouns when they are allocated their ID badges.

The network's committee are also currently receiving Trans allyship training, so that they are able to offer 'train the trainer' support to all staff across the organisation on how they can be effective allies to Trans colleagues and patients.

The new LGBTQ+ Staff Network is already having a great impact, and I would encourage LGBTQ+ members of staff and allies to get involved and help further strengthen their efforts. The network looking to recruit new members, particularly those from Trans, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds, and you can find out more by contacting: rainbownetwork.cav@wales.nhs.uk



VODAFONE/PROXIMIE

I've always been proud of the countless examples of clinical innovation that we continually see across the breadth of our organisation, and have recently been very interested to hear about an exciting development being led by Professor Jared Torkington.

The Colonoscopy team has been trialling the use of 'Proximie', a new platform that enables clinicians to remotely attend procedures from potentially anywhere in the world, using advanced technologies including augmented reality (AR) and artificial intelligence (AI).

Facilitated by a new 5G Vodafone network, Proximie is being used at UHW and UHL to provide colonoscopy training to nurses, giving an immersive experience that enables participants to interact with what surgeons see in the room.

Being able to bring people into a virtual space like this not only means that expertise can be shared live across vast distances, but it also helps to limit the number of people in our hospitals which is obviously of significant benefit currently.

I would commend the ingenuity and dedication shown by clinicians throughout Cardiff and Vale UHB who, despite the challenges they have faced during the COVID-19 pandemic, have continued to drive forward clinical innovation such as this to not only continue delivering services, but to enhance them and improve outcomes for our patients. I am looking forward to seeing the growing use of this platform going forward.



Sustainability Achievements from Capital, Estates and Facilities

I am delighted to share with you some updates from our colleagues in the Capital, Estates and Facilities team.

Firstly, they have recently completed the first phase of the UHB's Refit programme of work to reduce carbon emissions and wasted energy. Teams have been undertaking a major programme of works to replace and improve parts of the estate in order to improve efficiency and reduce carbon emissions.

They have recently completed the first phase of this project; this phase alone included replacing over 7,000 lights across the Health Board with energy-saving LEDs, establishing five solar panel schemes across the estate (at the University Hospital of Wales, University Hospital Llandough, and Barry Hospital), replacing over 100 ventilation motors with high efficiency units, and installing over 500m of pipework insulation.

We have calculated that the work undertaken as part of this phase will reduce its carbon emissions by around 700 tonnes every year and produce annual savings of over £300,000.

Secondly, I am delighted to announce that we have achieved continued ISO 14001 accreditation following an external audit by the British Standard Institute (BSI). This recognises the work it has done as part of its environmental management programme.

ISO 14001 is an internationally recognised standard that helps organisations both minimise their negative impacts on the environment while improving their positive effects on it. ISO 14001 maps out how organisations can improve their resource efficiency and reduce waste.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone involved in achieving this certification. As a Health Board, we take our environmental impact very seriously and are working hard towards total decarbonisation; this is an important step on this journey. As we look to the future, and our proposal to build a new University Hospital for Wales, we will ensure that environmentalism and sustainability, as set out in standards such as ISO 14001, are at the core of our ambition.

As we continue our journey towards decarbonisation, we would welcome your views about what is important to you and areas in which we can try to improve. [Please complete the survey here.](#)

Electronic Test Requesting (ETR) successfully rolled out in EU & MEAU

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our staff who have supported the roll-out of Electronic Test Requesting (ETR) across the Health Board. We are pleased to share that the majority of laboratory test requests in secondary care are now being completed electronically.

In our last update we shared the progress that has been made with the roll-out in our Emergency Unit (EU), and ETR usage has now reached 97% resulting in paper request forms having been removed from the unit. On 4th May, we went live with ETR in the Medical Emergency Assessment Unit (MEAU) at University Hospital Llandough. There has been an extremely positive response from our MEAU colleagues, with uptake increasing from 2% to 61% in just one week.

Over the next few weeks we will begin the next phase of ETR support, which will include making sure areas are ready and able to make ETR requests exclusively. This will be vital as from 1st August paper tests will no longer be accepted by our laboratory departments. Keep an eye on our social media channels as we will be sharing further updates including a series of staff cast studies and videos to highlight how ETR has positively impacted our services.

25th May, 8th June & 15th June: Bevan Commission: Adopt & Spread Showcase Events

The Adopt and Spread Programme has been running over the last 18 months supporting adoption sites as they take Bevan Exemplar Innovations across Wales. This work has taken place during COVID-19 and the participants have had to work exceptionally hard to make an impact and to ensure we are able to learn from the programme.

The projects range from a social care projects including Six Steps Education Programme: Palliative and End of Life Care Education Programme for Care Homes & Domiciliary Care Services, to primary care projects including Safeguarding peer support groups, to specialist projects including Trauma Ambulatory Care Unit and introducing AI enabled virtual assistants for a paediatric service.

The project leads and their teams are sharing their experiences, how they adopted and adapted innovation, what they have achieved, lessons learnt and what's next.

Visit [A&S Showcase 2021 | Bevan Commission](#) to view the full agenda and book your tickets. Please note, each session will require a separate ticket, bookable via Eventbrite.

Lead Research Midwife from Cardiff and Vale UHB meets HRH, The Princess Royal

On International Day of the Midwife, Wednesday 5th May 2021, six midwives had a private audience with the Royal College of Midwives (RCM) Patron, Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal.

Among the midwives was Maryanne Bray, one of our Lead Research Midwives. Maryanne had a chance to chat to HRH about the research she carries out for Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and how that work impacts the women and families we look after. Maryanne commented that The Princess Royal was very knowledgeable about what is going on in midwifery currently.

The meeting took place at St James's Palace in London, and was held to honour and recognise the work of midwives over the past year, and the care they have delivered for mothers, babies, and their families during the pandemic.

Each of the midwives was invited to attend in recognition for their exceptional commitment to keeping maternity services running during the pandemic, despite immense pressures.

Digital competency framework for allied health professionals

You may be aware that the digital competency framework for allied health professionals, has now published on [the Health Education England website](#).

This document outlines the knowledge and skills which are required for AHPs regarding digital technology, and aims to guide individuals and services to identify learning needs for future development.

On the back of this work, an exciting piece of work is being undertaken to evaluate the digital competency of AHPs across the UK. We want to capture the current status of digital competency across England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales, following dramatic transformation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please complete and share the survey via the following link. The survey should take approximately 15 minutes and you can save the form if you are unable to complete in one go.

<https://forms.office.com/r/ZpjJdCNBmd>

The results of this work will allow us to understand the learning needs of AHPs in digital technology at a national level, which will be assistive in guiding future workforce development across the UK.

20 funded Places for Nurses and Midwives at the Nursing, Genomics and Healthcare Conference

Are you interested to learn about the application of genomics in your area of practice? Genomics Partnership Wales is funding 20 places for nurses and midwives to join the Nursing, Genomics and Healthcare Conference. The virtual conference which will be held from July 7th to 9th 2021 will bring together nurses and educators interested in mainstreaming genomics in the areas of education, practice, policy, research and leadership.

The online format will include presentations from international leaders, panel discussions and debates. Sessions will run in afternoons for Europe and Africa | mornings for the Americas, enabling practitioners from across the globe to take part.

To find out more, email: genomicspartnershipwales@wales.nhs.uk

Other News and Events

NHS Big Tea

The NHS Big Tea 2021 launched week commencing Monday 10th May 2021, to say a big thank you and celebrate the amazing work of Cardiff and Vale University Health Board staff and celebrate how lucky we are to have such a wonderful NHS in the UK

[Read more](#)

Health Charity supports International Nurses Day

Cardiff & Vale Health Charity and Arts for Health and Wellbeing Programme were proud to show their support and give heartfelt thanks to the Nurses and Nursing support staff throughout Cardiff and Vale University Health Board on International Nurses Day

[Read more.](#)

Staff Lottery

Increase your numbers for the Staff Lottery to be in with a chance of winning £5,000 this June!

[Find out more.](#)

Mametz ward painting

A poignant painting, which once hung in Cardiff Royal Infirmary that depicted life on its Mametz Ward during the First World War, will soon be adorning the walls of the hospital's Chapel once again, thanks to a donation from the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps Association (QARANC).

[Find out more.](#)