

EXECUTIVE CONNECTS



Dear Colleague,

05/12/2022

As we step into December we are reaching a period where winter pressures will start to peak, we are facing industrial action from the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) on the 15th and 20th December and flu cases are starting to climb. Despite these pressures and challenges there are still things we can all do to ease the burden on the NHS. One thing we can all do is ensure we have had COVID-19 booster and flu vaccinations, as detailed later.

We know colleagues facing into the winter pressures are already fatigued after the challenges presented first by the pandemic, and then by the need to recover from the impact of the pandemic. We would like to acknowledge and thank you all for your continued hard work to put the interests of our patients first. We have recently received correspondence from the Chief Nursing Officers and Chief Medical Officers across the four nations, the Chief Executive of the Nursing and Midwifery Council, the Chief Executive of the General Medical Council and the Chief Executive of the Hospitals Care Quality Commission. In the correspondence, they have shared their thanks and gratitude for the professionalism and commitment that all of you are showing during such testing times, and their confidence in all healthcare professionals to continue to do their utmost to continue safe and effective patient care.

Due to the announcement of industrial action by the RCN on Thursday 15th December and Tuesday 20th December, the Health Board has been developing plans to maintain patient safety and care where possible.

During any action the RCN are committed to ensuring industrial action has at its core the preservation of patient safety.

Our teams are liaising closely with local RCN members leading up to the dates of strike action to ensure we can maintain patient safety with minimal disruption to critical services.

Unfortunately, so we are able to continue to provide appropriate care for our most unwell patients and maintain emergency and critical care during these periods, we have made the difficult decision to cancel non urgent outpatient appointments and procedures but we are committed to continuing urgent cancer care.

We appreciate this may be frustrating for our patients, especially where there have been long waits for treatment but we hope the public understand we need to keep services safe.

All patients who are expecting treatment or appointments on either the 15th December or 20th December will be contacted via text

message to inform them if their appointment is going ahead or if it is cancelled. Any appointments that are cancelled will be rearranged and patients will be contacted with a new date. Follow up letters will be sent in the post to confirm this and our teams may also reach out to those affected by phone call.

As a Health Board we respect colleagues right to participate in, or support lawful strike action in a peaceful and safe manner. We recognise why many colleagues have voted in favour of striking and acknowledge this is a challenging time for many with ongoing winter pressures and amidst a rise in cost-of-living.

Across the UK there are significant demands on Childrens Intensive Care Services, and as a consequence Cardiff and Vale University Health Board is experiencing bed pressures within its Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU). This is due to rising numbers of viral respiratory illnesses amongst children resulting in a surge in numbers of children requiring treatment within critical care.

To ensure our sickest patients are receiving appropriate safe care, our clinical teams will need to make some difficult decisions in the coming weeks, which may include the cancellation of elective surgery and the transfer of critically ill children to other units in the UK.

Our teams are doing everything they can to maintain capacity, but prioritising safety for the most unwell children within the Children's Hospital for Wales is paramount. We may need to cancel more procedures than we would like in order to continue to treat all unwell children that need critical care support at this time. All decisions will be made on an individual clinical basis and we apologise for any anxiety

patients and their families may experience if their treatment is postponed.

Unfortunately, this situation is not unique to Wales and all PICUs across the UK are experiencing a high demand coupled with workforce challenges.

We want to reassure patients and their families that our teams are working tirelessly to provide safe and effective care to our patients and these decisions will be reviewed on a weekly basis to monitor capacity and we appreciate your understanding during this challenging period.

Again I want to thank colleagues across our health and social care services who are continuing to care for the population despite the ongoing challenges.

Power up your protection this winter with a flu vaccination

The flu is now circulating in Wales, and getting vaccinated remains our best protection against serious illness. This winter we are encouraging everyone who is eligible to take up their vaccination offer to help protect themselves, their loved ones and community.

If you are a member of Cardiff and Vale University Health Board staff there are several ways you can receive your flu vaccine. This includes pop-up flu vaccination sessions that are taking place across Health Board sites, [for more information including dates please visit SharePoint.](#)

If you are a member of the public and are eligible for a flu vaccination, you will receive your vaccination at your local GP practice or Community Pharmacy. We advise that you

check flu vaccine arrangements with your local GP practice or Community Pharmacy, who will be able to advise on how to book your vaccine.

For more information on Cardiff and Vale University Health Board's flu programme [please visit our website](#), and you can find more information about the flu vaccine including whether you are eligible on the [Public Health Wales website](#).

Assistant Medical Director Appointments

The Health Board has recently appointed three members of staff into the roles of Assistant Medical Director for Medical Education, Assistant Medical Director for Workforce and Assistant Medical Director for Quality and Safety.

With immediate effect, Dr Martin Edwards, Consultant in Paediatrics, has been appointed to Assistant Medical Director for Medical

Education. Martin has been a Consultant with the Health Board since 2015 and has been the Faculty Lead, Assistant Clinical Director and the Fatigue and Facilities Lead. In this new role, Martin will be responsible for maintaining and developing high quality medical education training across the Health Board.

As of the 1st December 2022, Mr Michael Stephens, Consultant in Nephrology and Transplant will take on the role as Assistant Medical Director for Workforce, and will be responsible for maintaining and developing all aspects of medical workforce, recruitment, deployment, retention and conduct of staff. Michael has been a Consultant since 2010 and has held the following roles, Clinical Lead for Transplantation and Vascular Access, Training Programme Director for General Surgery and Clinical Director.

Dr Aled Roberts will be taking on the role of Assistant Medical Director for Quality and Safety which involves responsibility for maintaining and developing all aspects relating to Clinical Governance and Patient Safety across the organisation. Aled has been a Consultant Physician at Cardiff and Vale University Health Board since 2009 and is also Clinical Board Director for Medicine.



Martin Edwards

Assistant Medical Director for
Medical Education



Michael Stephens

Assistant Medical Director for
Medical Workforce

Celebrating the South Wales Neuroendocrine Cancer Service and Neuroendocrine Cancer Fund

Neuroendocrine cancers are uncommon but increasingly prevalent cancers which are generally slow growing (NETs), although some can be aggressive (neuroendocrine carcinomas). Arising from different organs of the body, they most commonly originate in the gastrointestinal tract. They are diverse, complex and require individualised and expert care.

Patients are referred to the South Wales NET service with initial discussion at the South Wales multidisciplinary team meeting in Cardiff. Care provided includes precise diagnostic assessment, holistic symptom management including nutrition, blood test or biomarker monitoring, surveillance scans, clinical reviews and a variety of therapies or surgery, if appropriate.

The service is led by Dr Mohid Khan, Consultant Gastroenterologist and is made up of a talented multidisciplinary team.

In October, Comedian, Adam Kay, joined patients and staff to celebrate the award-winning South Wales Neuroendocrine Cancer Service and support the Neuroendocrine Cancer Fund. The event took place at Hensol's Vale Resort and saw members of the South Wales Neuroendocrine Cancer Service and patients share their experiences of the service and its transformation over the past five years.

[Learn more about Cardiff & Vale Health Charity's Neuroendocrine Cancer Fund.](#)

AWMSG mark 20 years of providing quick and safe access to medicines for Welsh patients

A host of speakers, delegates and staff came together to celebrate 20 years of All Wales Medicine Strategy Group (AWMSG) providing advice on newly licensed medicines ensuring patients in Wales get quick access to new medicines.

This Welsh Government advisory committee, supported by the All Wales Therapeutic and Toxicology Centre (AWTTC), provides advice on new medicines and develops prescribing guidance for healthcare professionals, marked the milestone at the Cardiff City Stadium on 17th November.



An uplifting and passionate speech came from Jermaine Harris who spoke at the conference on how important the work of AWMMSG is as his son Fraizer was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis at just over three weeks old. The keen golfer, who is now seven, takes 50 tablets a day for his 'super powers' as the youngster calls them to control the condition. Jermaine spoke on his appreciation to AWMMSG, NHS Wales, doctors and scientists who have made it possible that his son is able to have this treatment allowing him to lead a normal life.

At the conference, staff also remember a talented, much-loved and missed colleague Nicola Wheatley, led by Dr Laurence Gray who paid tribute to her outstanding work for the National Poisons Information Service within AWTTCC.

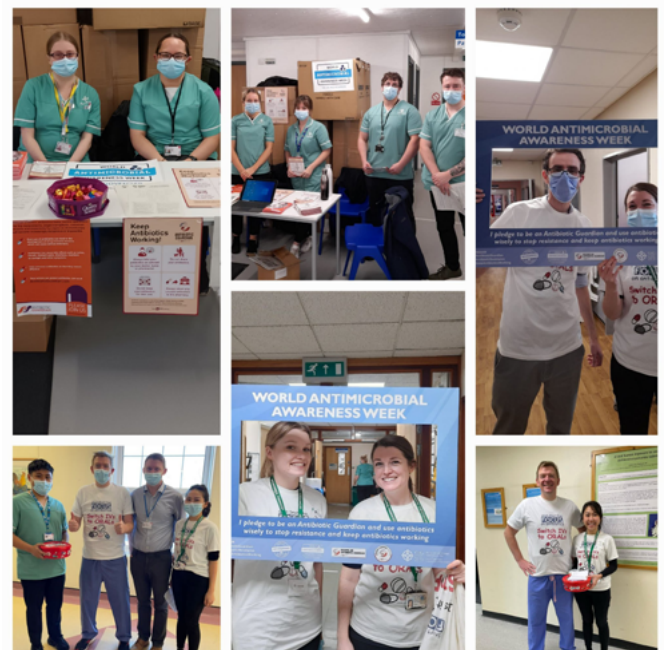


Supporting World Antibiotic Awareness Week (WAAW) across the Health Board

The Health Board recently supported World Antibiotic Awareness Week which aims to increase awareness of antibiotic resistance and to encourage best practice among the general public and health workers.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) remains one of the biggest threats facing us today and conserving antibiotics for as long as possible is imperative.

Within secondary care, the team focussed on encouraging the Start Smart Then Focus (SSTF) principles and IV to Oral switch of



antibiotics. The "Start Smart then focus" approach to antibiotic prescribing helps support prescribers and other clinical staff in prescribing antimicrobials appropriately and ensuring prompt review.

Switching from intravenous to oral antibiotics has lots of benefits for patients, the health care system and the environment:

- Reducing the risk of line-associated bloodstream infections
- Reducing the risk of phlebitis
- Increasing patient satisfaction and comfort
- Expediting hospital discharge
- Decreased costs
- More sustainable (less plastic waste associated with oral antibiotics)
- Reducing nursing workload

Advent Videos

Last week, we started sharing our series of Advent Reading and Reflections across our social media channels. The short videos have been developed by our Chaplaincy Department to help you journey through Advent towards Christmas and epiphany.



Reverend Andy Gibbs started off the series with a reading from Isaiah 2:1—5, Psalm 122, Romans 13:11—14 and Matthew 24:36—44 and on Sunday, he reflected on the Gift of Forgiveness.

Each Wednesday, a new reading will be released on our social media channels, followed by a short reflection and prayer on Sunday.

You can watch our Advent videos on our YouTube, Facebook and Twitter pages. The readings and reflections will also be played on the hospital radio channels at some of our sites.

24Hrs4Charli Challenge for Better Life Fund

A huge congratulations to Will Millis and Tom Millis for completing 24Hrs4Charli by running the Richard Burton 10k route continuously for 24 hours and raising the fantastic amount of £4,026.00 for the Better Life fund in memory of their cousin Charli Davies who was diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis at the age of 2 years old.

[Find out more here.](#)

The Health Charity Team visit Beloved Cardiff Royal Infirmary Painting at RMA Sandhurst

Many current and previous members of staff and patients of Cardiff Royal Infirmary will fondly remember the painting 'Care of Wounded Soldiers at Cardiff Royal Infirmary during the Great War' when it hung by the Infirmary's main entrance. Members of the Health Charity Team were invited to view the painting at RMA Sandhurst, where it is on loan, to be deservedly cared for, protected and researched.

[Read more here.](#)