



## **Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) - Local Review of the Vascular Service, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board.**

### **Terms of Reference**

#### **Why are we doing this work?**

Healthcare Inspectorate Wales's (HIW) purpose is to check that healthcare services are provided in a way which maximises the health and wellbeing of people.

In line with its NHS service of concern process, in February 2022 HIW designated the Vascular Services at Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (the 'health board') as a [Service Requiring Significant Improvement \(SRSI\)](#). This was in response to the [Royal College of Surgeons \(RCOS\) Clinical Record Review Report](#), published on 20 January 2022, which identified a number of concerns that indicated a risk to patient safety when using the health board's vascular services.

These concerns relate to:

- The quality of clinical care
- Risks to patient safety
- Poor Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) working
- Poor documentation and record keeping.

The RCOS report noted a number of recommendations that the health board needs to address in order to improve the quality of care and service provided to ensure the safety of patients.

As a consequence of the SRSI designation, HIW has decided to undertake a review within the health board's vascular services, which will examine the progress made by the health board in relation to each recommendation highlighted in the RCOS report, to gain assurances on patient safety and the quality of care being provided.

The outcome of this review will enable HIW to consider whether the health board's vascular services can be de-escalated as a SRSI or to identify further actions for improvement.

## Scope and Methodology

This review will focus on the RCOS review report and will assess the progress made by the health board in addressing the review recommendations to maintain patient safety and quality of care. The review will consider the actions implemented, improvements made, and whether the measures taken to address the recommendations ensure safe care of good quality to patients, and whether this is sustainable.

The key question that this review will seek to answer in relation to the vascular services is:

***Do the current arrangements in place within the health board's vascular services support the delivery of quality care, which is safe, timely and effective?***

In answering this question, we will consider the following key lines of enquiry:

- What governance arrangements are in place at the health board to monitor the ongoing response to the RCOS findings and recommendations, and are they effective?
- Is there evidence that the urgent concerns identified by the RCOS have been or are being addressed effectively?
- Is there evidence to support whether the actions taken to maintain patient safety and the quality of care are effective, are sustainable, and will aid service improvement?

In addition to the review's primary focus on the health board's response to the RCOS recommendations, we will also engage with the Vascular Quality Panel (VQP) as part of this process to help inform the review and its findings. Furthermore, we will engage with the RCOS in light of their commitment to follow up with the health board to gain assurance that timely action has been taken to address their recommendations relating to patient safety.

To assess the areas detailed above, the review will examine a sample of individual cases of patients who have accessed the health board's vascular services. Additionally, to gather further evidence as part of our review, we will carry out the following fieldwork:

- Interviews with a range of health board staff
- Interviews with some Board members of the health board
- Engagement/survey relevant staff members to ensure their views and experiences are captured and considered

- We will seek to capture the views and experiences of patients, including individuals selected as part of our case review
- Document review and analysis of a range of corporate and operational information and data, including committee minutes and papers
- We will engage with other stakeholder organisations, where necessary, throughout our review.

### Timescales

The table below includes estimated timescales for the review:

Activity	Timescales
Fieldwork planning and document review	November - December 2022
Fieldwork	December 2022 - January 2023
Report Publication	June 2023

### Analysis and reporting

Throughout the review fieldwork phase, the review team will give immediate feedback if any issues arise which represent an immediate risk to patient safety.

The review will conclude with the publication of a report that will set out the key themes and recommendations identified from our work. Any information provided by staff during the fieldwork will not be directly attributed to them in the report.

The health board will be provided with a copy of the draft report to comment on factual accuracy and will receive a copy of the final report prior to its publication.

If areas for improvement are identified, the health board will be required to complete an improvement plan, which should detail how the relevant services will address the findings set out in the report. Following review, any improvement plan will be published on HIW's website alongside the report.

If required, we will use our [service of concern](#) process to identify and escalate concerns, to support any necessary improvement or learning for the health board.

### Personal data

This review forms part of HIW's work to provide independent assurance on the quality and safety of healthcare services in Wales. The Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003 (Part II, Chapter 4) gives HIW the power to carry out inspections, reviews and investigations of the NHS or services provided for the NHS.

These terms of reference set out our intended approach to the review.

Where we process personal data, this is in accordance with data protection legislation, including the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulations. Further information is set out in HIW's privacy notice which can be found on our website <https://hiw.org.uk/privacy-policy>.