Glangwili Hospital
Stroke Service

~ Recruitment ~

October 2017
Stroke Service
Glangwili Hospital, Carmarthen

What we do
Stroke is a high priority area for Hywel Dda University Health Board. Our Stroke Team works in line with a local stroke plan, which is linked with the National Stroke Delivery Plan.

The Stroke Service in Glangwili General Hospital, in conjunction with Prince Philip Hospital in Llanelli, provides comprehensive stroke services for the residents of Carmarthenshire and is made up of a multi-disciplinary team of stroke physicians, clinical nurse specialists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists and dieticians. The average number of stroke patients admitted to Glangwili Hospital each year is 275.

Patients suffering from suspected stroke are rapidly seen in A&E and provided with urgent diagnostic imaging and if appropriate, thrombolysis. The patients are then transferred to the Acute Stroke Unit on Gwenllian Ward for the first 72 hours of their stay where they will be closely monitored by an enhanced nursing team. After this initial period, patients are moved to the stroke beds on Gwenllian Ward where comprehensive rehabilitation services are provided by a multi-disciplinary team to help patients recover as best they can and support them in returning home. To support the rehabilitation of patients there is a dedicated therapy room on Gwenllian Ward. If patients are unable to return home after a stroke, then patients and relatives are supported by ward staff and Social Services in planning additional care or residential placements if necessary.

To maintain and to continuously improve our high standards of care, we regularly participate in the annual National Stroke Audit (SSNAP) conducted by The Royal College of Physicians.

What we want to do in the future
The treatment of stroke is moving quickly and in Hywel Dda University Health Board we are looking to further develop the thrombolysis pathway so that patients can be treated even more quickly than they are at present, potentially preventing further damage to the patient’s brain. This has enormous implications for the patient’s quality of life post stroke as well as the intensity of care that they would require in the future.

As a health board we are also looking to work more effectively on primary prevention with primary care and third sector partners. As a service we need to work on reducing the numbers of people who smoke, increasing the numbers of people who achieve a healthy body weight, increase physical activity, reduce alcohol consumption and identify and treat risk factors associated with health inequality and heart disease.
Our stroke team are also working with the Welsh Government Stroke Implementation Group and Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board to develop a hyper acute stroke unit, which would provide specialist stroke services seven days per week and would provide access to further interventional services such as thrombectomy.

On the Glangwili Hospital site, there are plans to relocate and refurbish the Acute Stroke Unit and stroke ward, which will provide patients and relatives with modern and comfortable surroundings and will provide staff with a pleasant and tailored working environment.

**Why you should work for us**

Stroke is identified as a preventable and treatable disease. It is the leading cause of adult disability in Wales and is the third most common cause of death, after cancer and heart disease.

Working with the stroke team at Glangwili Hospital, you will have the chance to work a team of dedicated professionals to help deliver better patient outcomes for the patients of Carmarthenshire.

In addition to the local team in Glangwili, you will be able to work with the wider stroke team in Hywel Dda University Health Board and also with the Welsh Government Service Improvement Group to continually improve stroke services.

In joining the Stroke Team in Glangwili Hospital, you will, not only help to make a difference to stroke patients, but also develop your skills and practice to become a stroke specialist in a busy and exciting stroke unit.

**Here’s what some of our staff say about working here:**

The working environment in Glangwili Hospital is excellent both in terms of facilities and work colleagues. I have been able to foster a sub-specialist interest in stroke management with encouragement and support from both management and fellow colleagues. From my perspective as a clinician, I feel there is a real commitment from the specialist multi-disciplinary team to provide the best possible care. The collaborative team culture within the medical department has allowed me to develop my specialist interest enhancing job satisfaction. Colleagues are extremely supportive and the range of specialties within the hospital means help is always on hand for difficult problems.

*Dr Pagadala S Sridhar*

*Locum Consultant Physician, Glangwili Hospital*
The thing I like most about working here is the supportive working environment. Everyone here has a willingness to share knowledge and support colleagues in delivering great patient care which makes us a great team. This makes us all feel valued and recognised for our individual contribution to the patient care and to the health board.

**Jayne Thomas**  
Clinical Nurse Specialist for Stroke, Glangwili Hospital

I have worked in the Scheduled Care Directorate since 2005 and moved to Tysul Eye Unit in January 2006. Tysul deals with ophthalmology and it is a very interesting area to work in. We provide services for routine and emergency eye care within the department, including ophthalmic surgical interventions and pre-operative assessments. A variety of learning opportunities is provided within the department by a friendly, supportive team of nurses and doctors.

**Debbie Williams**  
Senior Sister / Ward Manager, Glangwili Hospital

I have worked on Gwenllian Ward for five years. I have gained a great deal of knowledge and skills working on the acute stroke ward. We are a fantastic team, working together to achieve the best possible care for each individual patient and their family. It is very rewarding and seeing patients on their journey to recovery is the best feeling. It is very challenging at times, but knowing you can make a difference to each individual is worth it. I continue to learn everyday and hope to continue working with this fantastic team.

**Linzi Michelle Hughes**  
Staff Nurse, Gwenllian Ward, Glangwili Hospital

I love being able to work on a ward where I see patients arrive acutely unwell following a stroke but leave several days later in a much improved condition. That allows me a feeling of job satisfaction that cannot be found easily elsewhere. To me, the most distinctive feature of stroke management is the provision of co-ordinated care from a multi-disciplinary team with the integration of nursing, close involvement of carers in the rehabilitation process, staff expertise in stoke and education. I find great job satisfaction as a senior physiotherapist to have the opportunity to participate with the training programmes for staff, patients and carers.

**Claire Richards**  
Clinical Lead Physiotherapist for Stroke, Glangwili Hospital
Come and join us!

For further information about recruitment opportunities, please contact:

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