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Health Board

# Changing orthopaedic Services for the Future

Our plans for Orthopaedic Services - tell us what you think



This document was written by Swansea Bay University Health Board. It is an easy read version of 'Public Engagement. Changing Orthopaedic Services for the Future.'

February 2023

# How to use this document



This is an easy read document. But you may still need support to read it. Ask someone you know to help you.



Words in **bold blue writing** may be hard to understand. You can check what the words in blue mean on **page 26**.



Where the document says **we**, this means **Swansea Bay University Health Board**. For more information contact:

**Website:** <https://sbuhb.nhs.wales>

**E-mail:** [SBU.engagement@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:SBU.engagement@wales.nhs.uk)

**Phone:** 01639 683355



**Easy Read Wales** made this document into Easy Read using **Photosymbols**. To tell us what you think about this easy read version, [click here](#).



# Contents

	Page
<b>How to use this document</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Who we are and what we do</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Why we need to make changes to Orthopaedic services</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>What happens if you have been referred to Orthopaedic services</b> .....	<b>12</b>
Where you will have your operation .....	14
What are the difficulties?.....	15
<b>Our suggestions for changing Orthopaedic services</b> .....	<b>17</b>
What this means for you in future .....	19
How you may benefit from the changes for Orthopaedic services: .....	21
How you may not benefit from the changes for Orthopaedic services: .....	22
Equality .....	22
<b>Tell us what you think</b> .....	<b>23</b>
<b>Hard words</b> .....	<b>26</b>

# Who we are and what we do



We are **Swansea Bay University Health Board (Swansea Bay UHB)**.



**We run NHS services for people living in:**

- Neath
- Port Talbot
- Swansea



We also run some specialist services for people who live further away.



## **We plan services from:**

- Family Doctors (GP's)
- Dentists
- Chemists
- District Nurses
- Therapists
- School Nurses
- Health Visitors



## **To plan our services, we work closely with:**

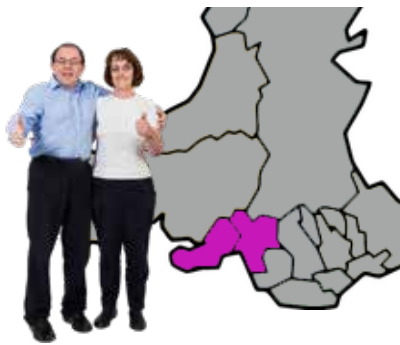
- Patients, families and carers
- The Ambulance Service
- Local Authorities (Councils)
- Universities
- Charities



# Introduction



This document is about changes to **Orthopaedic services** for some Swansea Bay residents.



Swansea Bay residents are people who live in:

- Swansea or
- Neath Port Talbot



**Orthopaedic services** provide treatment and operations to people who have problems with their:

- Bones



- Joints



## We help people who:



- have had problems for a long time and



- people who need operations like:

- Hip replacements and

- Knee replacements.



This is called **planned Orthopaedics**.



We also help people who have broken bones. This is called **Trauma**.



We have Orthopaedic services at:

- Morriston Hospital.
- Singleton Hospital.
- Neath Port Talbot Hospital.



Which hospital you go to depends on the type of treatment you need.



We have made plans to change the way we run Orthopaedic services so that:



- People don't have to wait so long for treatment.



- All Swansea Bay residents can have the same Orthopaedic services when they need them.



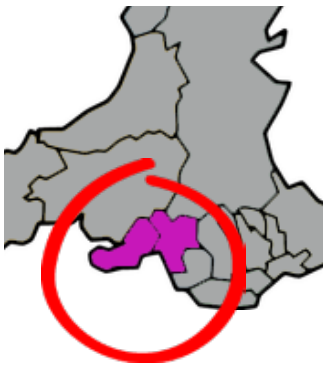


We want to know what you think about the changes we are planning for our orthopaedic services.



You can find out how to tell us what you think on **page 23**.

# Why we need to make changes to Orthopaedic services



## 1. Boundary changes

In 2019 the health board boundary changed. A boundary is the line that separates one area from another.

### Now:



- Most Swansea Bay residents get their NHS services from us (Swansea Bay UHB).



- Most people living in and around:
  - Bridgend
  - Merthyr Tydfil
  - Rhondda Cynon Taf



get their NHS services from **Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (CTM)**.



Sometimes GP's **refer** Swansea Bay residents to **CTM Orthopaedic services**.

**Refer** means to write to a health service and ask them to see you.



This means they will be on the CTM Orthopaedics waiting list.



The waiting list for Orthopaedic services in CTM is not long.



Our waiting list for Orthopaedic services is longer.

## 2.COVID-19



We had to stop all Orthopaedic operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. This means there are even more people waiting for appointments now.

# What happens if you have been referred to Orthopaedic services

If you have problems with your bones or joints now:



- Your GP will **refer** you to Orthopaedic services.



- You will have an **outpatients appointment** at Neath Port Talbot Hospital.



An **Outpatients appointment** is an appointment at the hospital when you don't have to stay the night.



This is the same whether you have been **referred** to us or to CTM.

If you need an operation:



- You will go on our waiting list if you have been **referred** to us.



- You will go on to the CTM waiting list if you have been **referred** to them.

# Where you will have your operation



If you need a simple operation, you will have it at Neath Port Talbot Hospital.



If you need an operation on your hand, you are most likely to have it at Singleton Hospital.



This is the same whether you have been **referred** to us or to CTM.



If you need a more complicated operation, you will have it at:

- Morriston Hospital if you have been **referred** to us.
- Princess of Wales hospital if you have been **referred** to CTM.



## What are the difficulties?



Swansea Bay UHB and CTM both use Neath Port Talbot Hospital for simple Orthopaedic operations.

- Your operation will be done by:



- One of our **surgeon's** if you were **referred** to us.



- A CTM **surgeon** if you were **referred** to them.

A **Surgeon** is a doctor who is specially trained to do medical operations.



- You will have treatment more quickly if you are **referred** to CTM.



This is because their waiting list is shorter.



- Swansea Bay residents who are **referred** to CTM do not have access to all our Orthopaedic services.

For example: If you are **referred** to **CTM** you will **not** have access to **our** Orthopaedic Prehab service. This service offers:



- Exercise classes



- Help with pain



- Advice about weight loss

# Our suggestions for changing Orthopaedic services

We want to make sure all Swansea Bay residents:



- Have their Orthopaedic treatment as quickly as possible.



- Are able to access all of our Orthopaedic services.



At the moment, CTM use the **operating theatres** at Neath Port Talbot hospital for 13 sessions a week.

An **Operating theatre** is a room in a hospital where operations are done



# What this means for you in future

If you are a Swansea Bay resident and you need Orthopaedic services, you will:



- Be sent an **Outpatient's appointment** at Neath Port Talbot Hospital.



- If you need an operation you will:



- Go on to our Orthopaedic waiting list.



- See one of our **surgeons**.



- Go to Neath Port Talbot Hospital if your operation is simple.



- Go to Morriston Hospital if your operation is more complicated.



- Have the support you need after your operation from us.



- Any letters or information about your treatment will come from Swansea Bay UHB.



# How you may benefit from the changes for Orthopaedic services:



- By 2024 no one will have to wait more than 2 years for Orthopaedic treatment.



- All Swansea Bay residents will have access to the same Orthopaedic services.



- All Swansea Bay residents will be able to have their treatment and operation closer to their home.



- More staff will be employed to support our Orthopaedic services.



- No staff will lose their jobs.



- Staff will not have to work somewhere different.

# How you may not benefit from the changes for Orthopaedic services:



- Some people will need to wait a bit longer for their treatment at first.

## Equality



We need to make sure our plans for Orthopaedic services support everyone in our communities, including people:



- Who are older
- Have less money than others.
- With different:
  - Sexual preferences
  - Religions or beliefs
  - Abilities
  - Race, colour and ethnicity.

# Tell us what you think



We will be asking people to tell us what they think about our plans between **20 February and 14 April 2023**.

**You can tell us what you think by:**

Filling in a response form or write to us at:



Chief Executive  
Swansea Bay UHB  
1 Talbot Gateway  
Baglan  
SA12 7BR



**Email:** [SBU.engagement@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:SBU.engagement@wales.nhs.uk)



**Phone and leave a message:** 01639 683355.



**Facebook:** [Swansea Bay NHS](#)



**Twitter:** [@SwanseabayNHS](#)



**Face to face.** We will be holding community events and online sessions. You can find out about these events on our website:



[sbuhb.nhs.wales/about-us/engagement-consultation](http://sbuhb.nhs.wales/about-us/engagement-consultation)



or on our Facebook or Twitter accounts.



You can also let the **Community Health Council** know what you think by:



**Writing to them at:** Swansea Bay Community Health Council:

Cimla Hospital  
Cimla  
Neath  
SA11 3SU



**Or emailing:** [swanseabay@waleschc.org.uk](mailto:swanseabay@waleschc.org.uk)

# Hard words

## Outpatients appointment

An appointment at the hospital when you don't have to stay the night.

## Operating theatre

A room in a hospital set where operations are done.

## Refer

To write to a health service and ask them to see you.

## Surgeon

A Doctor who is specially trained to do medical operations.