



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Bae Abertawe
Swansea Bay University
Health Board

Cadeirydd/Chair: **Emma Woollett**
Prif Weithredwr/Chief Executive: **Mark Hackett**

gofalu am ein gilydd, cydweithio, gwella bob amser
caring for each other, working together, always improving

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg. Atebir gohebiaeth Gymraeg yn y Gymraeg, ac ni fydd hyn yn arwain at oedi. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English. Welsh language correspondence will be replied to in Welsh, and this will not lead to a delay.

Cais Rhyddid Gwybodaeth / Freedom of Information request **Ein Cyf / Our Ref: 22-K-012**

You asked:

Could you please let me know what the current waiting time is for replacement knee surgery in the Swansea catchment area.

Our response:

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused huge disruption to NHS services, not just in Swansea Bay but across the UK.

As with all health organisations, during the pandemic we suspended non-emergency services and appointments so our hospitals did not become overwhelmed while we cared for those seriously ill with the virus. Inevitably this has affected waiting times as it has done with all other health boards.

Clearly this was not something any of us would have wanted and we were extremely conscious of the potential consequences for patients.

Swansea Bay Health Board recognise how distressing it is for people who have had long waits for surgery, and understand the devastating effect it can have on their lives. The pandemic has stretched NHS resources to the limit, leading to record waiting times for orthopaedic and other surgery across the UK. This is on top of the usual winter and emergency pressures, which have only worsened an already challenging situation.

Last year, the health board agreed to create a series of centres of excellence at its main hospital sites, allowing it to work through the backlog as quickly and efficiently as possible. The plans include a centre of excellence for planned orthopaedic and spinal surgery at Neath Port Talbot Hospital. It will mean additional beds and operating theatres for orthopaedic surgery, increasing capacity by around 3,000 cases a year.

The centre of excellence at Neath Port Talbot Hospital is a key part of the health



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Swansea Bay University Health Board is the operational name of Swansea Bay University Local Health Board

board's strategic Changing for the Future programme. Orthopaedic waiting lists, which were already very long before Covid-19, were worsened by the effects of the pandemic. Over half of our patients have now been waiting more than two years for orthopaedic surgery.

Neath Port Talbot Hospital plans to offer a ring-fenced elective service aimed at powering through the majority of patients on these lists.

Morrison Hospital will continue to be responsible for orthopaedic trauma patients and orthopaedic patients with more complex needs. The health board is actively looking at how best to serve this last group.

We are in the construction stages and anticipate the new theatres will become operational by June 2023.

Please be aware that we are not able to provide expected or current waiting times for a patient on the waiting list for a knee replacement in SBUHB. Waiting times for these operations can vary from patient to patient depending on the consultant they are under, their co-morbidities, the complexity of the procedure required as well as other factors.

Therefore, to best answer your question, we have provided the amount of time the majority of patients on our waiting list have been waiting for a knee replacement. This figure excludes any outliers, who may have longer waits than usual for a variety of reasons personal to their individual cases.

As at 31st October 2022, 95% of patients waiting for a knee replacement have waited 203 weeks or less.

At present there are 1263 patients on the waiting list for a knee replacement operation.

