

P-05-732 Unacceptable Waiting Times for NHS patients in A & E Wrexham Maelor Hospital - Petitioner to the Committee, 04.09.18

Further Evidence of the Problems Regarding A and E.
 Yours sincerely,
 Charles Dodman

the Saturday Leader
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'Rise demonstrates staff are being pushed to breaking point'
HOSPITAL ALMOST AT 'PERMANENT CRISIS' LEVELS

Level 1	Steady State
Level 2 Amber Low	Moderate Pressure
Level 3 Amber High	Severe Pressure
Level 4	Extreme Pressure

BY LIAM RANDALL
 Local Democracy reporting services

NORTH Wales hospitals have been under the most severe level of pressure more than 2,000 times since 2015, according to 'frightening' new figures. Statistics released under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act show Wrexham Maelor Hospital, Ysbyty Glan Clwyd and Ysbyty Gwynedd have been at level four, described as 'extreme pressure', on 2,185 occasions up to August this year. Glan Clwyd in Bodelwyddan faced the biggest strain, accounting for almost half (1,032) of instances, compared to 906 at the Maelor and 563 at Bangor's hospital. The situation has grown significantly worse since 2015 when hospitals only reached the top level 120 times, in contrast to 977 in 2017. The Maelor has already arrived at the trigger point more times as of August (182) than in the whole of 2017 (174). ■ FULL STORY PAGE 4

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'Extreme pressure' levels at hospitals

Liam Randall
Local Democracy Reporting Service

NORTH Wales hospitals have been under the most severe level of 'pressure' more than 2,000 times since 2015, according to 'frightening' new figures.

Statistics released under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act show Wrexham Maelor Hospital, Ysbyty Glan Clwyd and Ysbyty Gwynedd have been at level four, described as 'extreme pressure', on 2,185 occasions up to August this year.

Glan Clwyd in Bodelwyddan faced the biggest strain, accounting for almost half (1,032) of instances, compared to 505 at the Maelor and 563 at Bangor's hospital.

The situation has grown significantly worse since 2015 when hospitals only reached the top level 120 times, in contrast to 977 in 2017.

Last year Glan Clwyd hit level four more than once

a day (468), but while its situation has improved in 2018, the Maelor has already arrived at the trigger point more times as of August (182) than in the whole of 2017 (174).

North Wales Assembly Member Llyr Gruffydd said the data showed the three district general hospitals are operating at 'almost permanent' crisis levels.

He said: "The dramatic rise from 120 incidents in 2015 to almost 1,000 by 2017 demonstrates that staff are being pushed to breaking point."

"While 2018 has seen a decrease overall it's hugely worrying to see that Wrexham hospital has levels of Level 4 escalation that are already higher this year than last year, and we're only in August."

"Betsi Cadwaladr health board has been under direct Welsh Government control over the last three years and we've seen this happen."

"What will it take for this Labour Government to accept its part in the

mismanagement of our NHS?"

The four levels demonstrate how much pressure emergency departments in Wales are under and how hospitals should respond.

According to an official document, level four is met when admissions are significantly above the expected number and available capacity, and patients are left waiting more than four hours to be seen.

Triggers include if emergency departments are unable to cope with demand and ambulance patients have waited more than an hour to be handed over to hospital staff.

It can also occur when there is a lack of capacity in the coronary and intensive care units.

The document states that the situation should be brought to the attention of the health board's chief executive and Welsh Government.

In response to the figures, Betsi Cadwaladr said

Level 1	Steady State	Ensure all standard operating processes are functioning as efficiently as possible in order to maintain flow
Level 2 Amber Low	Moderate Pressure	Respond quickly to manage and resolve emerging pressures that have the potential to inhibit flow. Initiate contingencies. De-escalate when applicable
Level 3 Amber High	Severe Pressure	Prioritise available capacity in order to meet immediate pressures. Put contingencies into action to bring pressures back within organisational control. De-escalate when applicable
Level 4	Extreme Pressure	Ensure all contingencies are fully operational to recover the situation. Executive command and control of the situation. De-escalate when applicable

escalation levels can change throughout the day.

Executive director for nursing and midwifery Gill Harris said: "We have been open about the challenges we face in improving flow, which are the same as those experienced in most hospitals across the UK."

"Escalation levels are not a performance measure. They are an internal management tool to aid the management of patients through the hospital system and the levels change throughout the day."

"We remain extremely

grateful to our staff for their professionalism and dedication to caring for our patients."

Earlier this month, Health Secretary Vaughan Gething announced a cash injection of almost £7 million for the beleaguered health board, which has been in special measures since June 2015 in the wake of the Tawel Fan mental health ward scandal.

He said the funding would be used to strengthen planned and unscheduled care services and deliver further improvements to

mental health and learning disability services.

A Welsh Government spokesman said: "Progress has been made in a number of areas under special measures but we have told the board we expect to see immediate improvements in other areas, in particular waiting times."

"We have, and continue to place more intensive support to deliver transformational change and improvements needed in planned and unscheduled care and a new chair has been appointed to drive this forward."

Welsh Rugby League International to be played at the Racecourse



The Racecourse Ground

WREXHAM AFC has confirmed a Wales Rugby League international is to be played at the Racecourse Ground.

Wales will face Ireland in the European Championship at the Racecourse on Sunday, November 11 (3pm kick-off) as they bid to qualify for the 2021 World Cup.

Scotland 18-12 and went on to lift the European Championship. The town also hosted two 2013 World Cup fixtures.

Before Wales' clash with Ireland, John Kear's men will travel to France and Galashiels to take on Scotland in the European Championship.

"We'll be working closely with both Wrexham Football Club and Wrexham Council to promote the match over the next couple of months."

"I know that John, his backroom staff and the players are all eager to put on a good

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