

Response to the National Assembly Health, Social Care and Sport Committee for evidence on Sepsis.

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Professional Awareness of Sepsis

There has been improvement work ongoing across Wales led by 1000 Lives to promote care of the deteriorating patient for the past 10 years; sepsis care is included within that workstream. This has led to an increased awareness about the sign of sepsis and as a result the diagnosis has increased over time as has the opportunity to deliver appropriate care.

In 2014, across the 3 hospital sites in the health board - 398 admissions had a main diagnosis of sepsis compared to 1,657 in 2018. During this time the death rate has reduced from 20% (2014) of sepsis admissions to 15% (2018). Within BCU there are ongoing workstreams to promote early detection and treatment of sepsis so promoting professional awareness:

All our in-patient wards use a standard observation chart that calculates the National Emergency Warning Score (NEWS is an evidence based measurement system to help identify patients who are deteriorating; it provides a framework for escalating care based on the score) and prompts staff to consider sepsis (see attached updated version).

Within North Wales, we are running a breakthrough collaborative for sepsis to improve early diagnosis and treatment within the Emergency Departments across our three sites. This is monitoring the delivery of the Sepsis 6 bundle – six interventions together delivering current best practice in sepsis care. We have also developed an electronic dashboard to ensure clinical staff are able to review compliance with sepsis care in real time by site and ward. This provides individual compliance for each element of sepsis care, a comparison with the previous week as well as the overall compliance. There is also access to outcome data – survival and mortality over time. All of this information supports better professional awareness.