

Welsh Clinical Portal benefits orthopaedic care

Consultants at the Princess of Wales hospital in Bridgend have spoken of the benefits of the Welsh Clinical Portal for their orthopaedic service.

The Welsh Clinical Portal is an electronic work space for hospital clinicians. It makes test results and a wide range of electronic documents, such as transfer of care documentation, theatre notes, referral and outpatients' letters available wherever the patient receives care in Wales, regardless of geographical or organisational boundaries.

The orthopaedic department at the hospital is complex and varied, covering everything from cartilage surgery, to knee replacements to some cancer investigations.

Amit Chandratreya, one of the consultants told us "I deal with a lot of young patients who need cartilage surgery. A lot of patients are not suitable for this surgery, so I am able to write back electronically to the GP to explain that. This means a faster referral process for those that are suitable."

"The Welsh Clinical Portal is very useful. It is connected to the X-rays and Blood tests for a patient, so we can review these prior to seeing a patient." Jaydeep Shah, another consultant added "one of the important things I have found is that you can look at it in any location across the trust, so you don't have to carry paper around with you. This is great to protect patient's information."

Amit Chandratreya also deals with some tumours which he often needs to refer on to the Sarcoma cancer team. He stated "before the Welsh Clinical portal, I would automatically see the patient and then if necessary I would refer them afterwards to the sarcoma unit. Since the Welsh Clinical Portal if I feel there is enough information from the GP I can refer the patients directly to the unit so that patients can get earlier treatment, which is beneficial for them."

Both consultants praised the electronic referral functionality and the ability to triage patients, changing their status from routine to urgent or vice versa as needed.

The Welsh Clinical Portal is available in hospitals across Wales.