



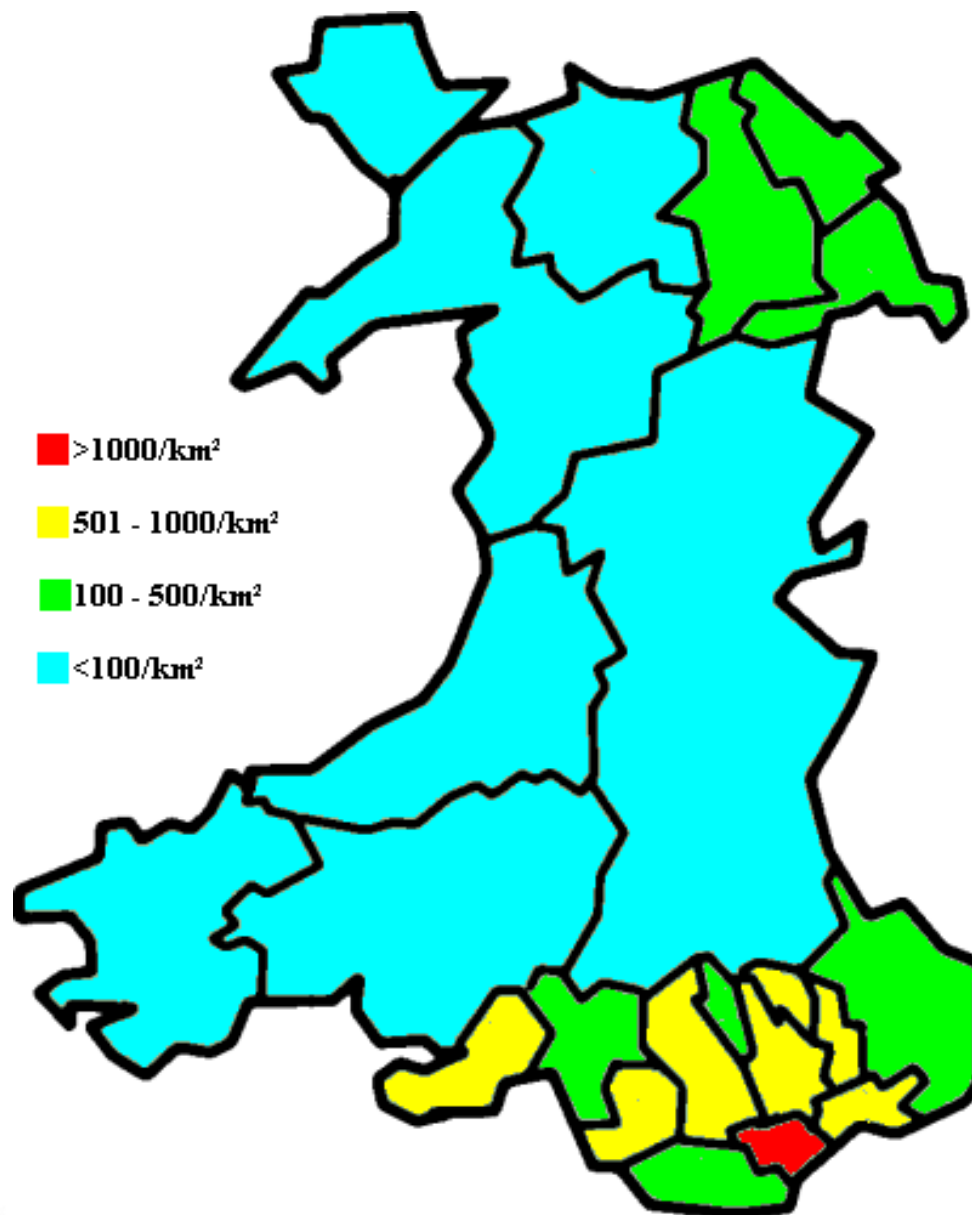
Headache Services in Wales in Neurology and other disciplines

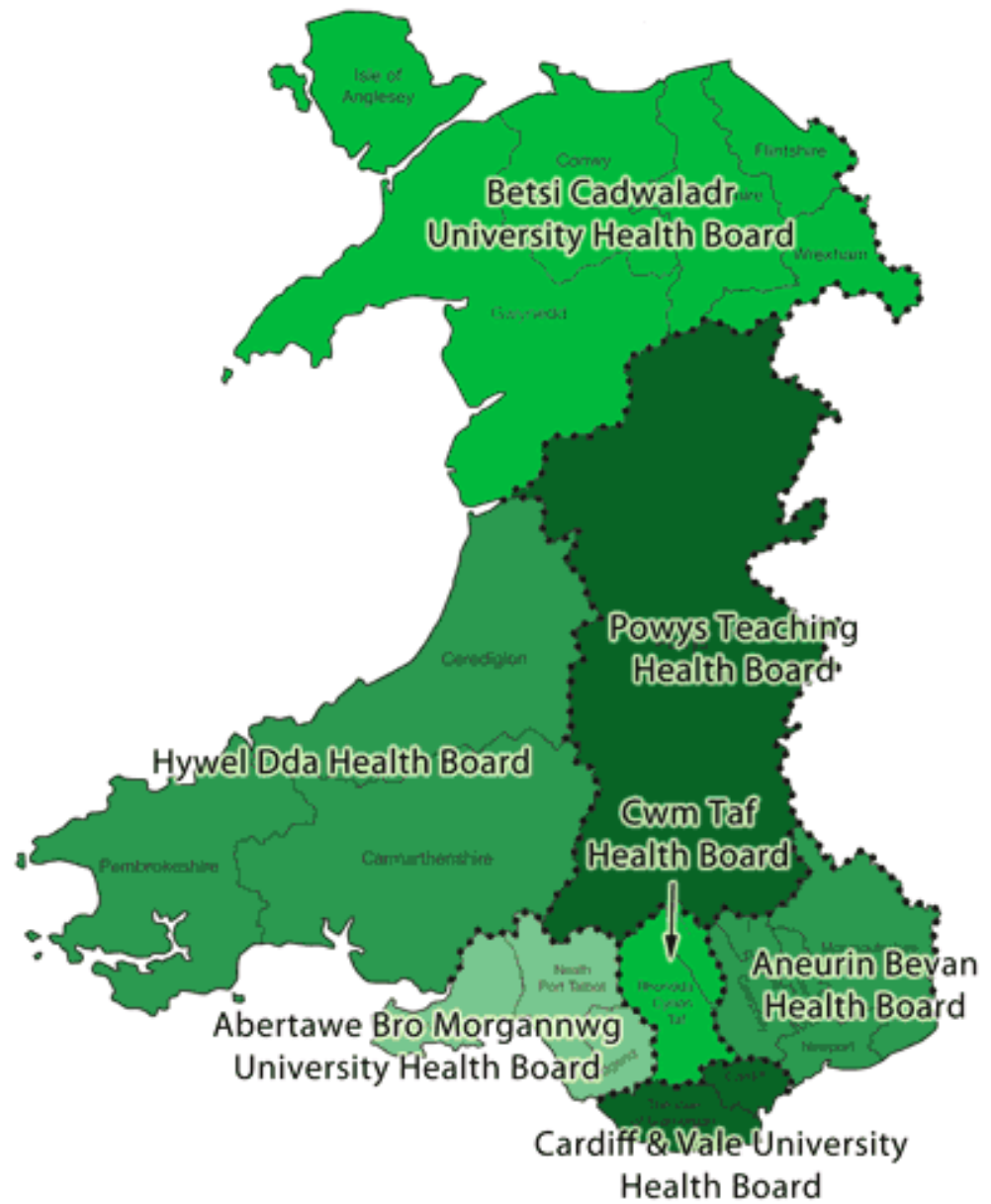
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HEALTH POLICY IN WALES

- Devolved since 1999
- High illness prevalence
- 'Left of centre' health policy
- Small private sector
- Low use of private sector by government
- No internal market
- Greater emphasis on public health
- Less demanding waiting list targets
- No ring-fencing of health budget









Neurology provision 2011

- 7 WTE consultant neurologists working from Swansea
- 8 WTE consultant neurologists working from Cardiff
- 4.5 WTE consultant neurologists working from Newport
- 3 WTE consultant neurologists working in North Wales, based at the Walton centre, Liverpool

Neurology provision in Wales

- Neuroscience centres at Cardiff and Swansea
- Academics – 2 professors, 2 senior lecturers
- Population ~ 3,000,000
- ~ 22.5 WTE consultant neurologists
- 1 consultant neurologist per 133,000
- European average 1:40,000

Referrals to Neurology

- Audit one month 2010
- Cardiff and Vale LHB – 156 referrals
- 47% headache, 53% non-headache
- Other LHB areas – estimate >30% headache

Headache Service

- 1 regional dedicated headache clinic serving South East Wales (Cardiff and Vale, Cwm Taf and Aneurin Bevan LHBs) with capacity to see approximately 190 new patients per year and 85 follow-up appointments.
- Established 1999 with 1 consultant and 1 Hospital Practitioner (GP)
- 1 session per week
- Manpower in 2011 – 1 Hospital Practitioner with nominal consultant supervision (without headache interest); no specialist nurse; no dedicated inpatient beds.

Headache clinics

- No other dedicated headache clinics in Wales
- 2 consultants with an interest but with other responsibilities and a personal or institutional reluctance to develop a headache label

Cardiff Headache Clinic

- Limitations
- GON injection via pain clinic only
- Flunarizine available
- Botox not on formulary and not likely to be funded
- No neurosurgical specialist support
- No stimulator / neurosurgical treatments available for primary headache
- Not a consultant led service

The future of Neurology provision?

- 1 new consultant neurologist planned for Hywel Dda LHB
- 1 additional consultant neurologist planned for Cwm Taf
- Establish a centre for neurology in North Wales
- Aim for 1 consultant neurologist per 80,000

The Future of Headache Services in Wales – barriers and considerations

- ‘Headache’ seen as low priority and uninteresting - *‘I hate seeing headache patients’* – Dr Consultant Neurologist
- ‘Neuroscience implementation programme’ 2009 – not a single mention of headache, despite.....!
- Moratorium on all new appointments in some LHBs.

The Future of Headache Services in Wales

- Persuade planners of needs of headache patients
- Tentative talks in LHB areas to develop a headache clinic
- ? Development of intermediate care services
- Prioritise attraction of a headache-interested consultant to develop regional headache 'services.'

The Future of Headache Services in Wales

- *‘Dyfal donc a dyr y garreg’* –
‘Persistent knocking breaks the stone’
- *‘A fo ben bid bont’* - ‘He who would be head, let him be a bridge’
- *‘Po callaf y dyn, anamlaf ei eiriau’* –
‘The wiser the man, the fewer his words’



Questions?