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## VTE AWARD

# Deep vein thrombosis (DVT) pathway leading to improved timely diagnosis of thrombosis

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## SWANSEA BAY UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD

### Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) Pathway

Operational since 2021, Swansea Bay University Health Board (SBUHB) provides a comprehensive, centralised diagnosis and review deep vein thrombosis (DVT) service operating out of the Same Day Emergency Care unit (SDEC) at Morriston Hospital.

A novel aspect of the pathway is management, with the service being pharmacist-led while also truly multidisciplinary, utilising support from General Practitioners, medical colleagues, physician associates, nurses, and pharmacists who together bring a diversity of set of skills and experience to the team.

It also integrates the management of the service into the SDEC is where the vast majority of DVT's are diagnosed thus enabling patients to be seen by a DVT specialist much earlier in their treatment and be consistently managed by the same team throughout their journey, where there is a concentration of knowledge.

The service ensures:

- Patients have initial assessment by a nurse and clinician using point of care D-dimer to provide results within minutes.
- If imaging is required, a Doppler Ultrasound scan is offered either on the day or the following day, with anticoagulation being prescribed for the interim if the patient has to return the next day.
- All patients with a new diagnosis are seen on the day or following day to go through questions, treatment plans, provide information and discuss cause of their thrombotic event.
- Follow-up occurs after one month and at three months, with this review including a focus on long term complications such as post thrombotic syndrome and counselling on management of the condition.

Audit in 2024 showed:

- 85% of patients had been diagnosed via the SDEC service, with patients diagnosed outside of the pathway primarily inpatients.
- The mean period between DVT diagnosis and being seen in the VTE clinic was 11.5 hours.
- Patients reviewed by the pharmacist led service show a low rate of VTE recurrence (2.1%) and bleeding (3.2%).
- Patient feedback is gathered and aids identification for improvement.

The training programmes developed for the service in review with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society regarding adoption as part of the national pharmacist advanced practice framework.

