

# Recognition for South Wales spinal centre of excellence



The Nuffield Health Hospitals Cardiff & Vale consultant spinal surgeon team, from left, James Cordell Smith, Mike McCarthy, Paul Rhys Davies, Stuart James and Iqroop Chopra

THE South Wales Spinal Centre at the Nuffield Vale hospital is embarking on an innovative piece of work to improve care for spinal surgery patients, supported by leading experts in spinal implants and in international healthcare.

The ambition is to develop a national centre of excellence in Wales for independent treatment for spinal surgery and pain management.

The programme to develop a spinal centre of excellence is being supported by a leading supplier of spinal prostheses and implants and

is being conducted with an international centre of healthcare advisers and management.

In 2013 Nuffield Health Hospitals in Cardiff and the Vale made an investment to further develop the South Wales Spinal Centre, bringing together five specialist spinal surgeons to integrate their practice within the model hospital environment at the Vale hospital, Hensol, Vale of Glamorgan.

The Cardiff Bay Clinic opened in 2009 and a new Vale hospital opened in 2011, comprising the highest quality digital and clean air operating theatre environment in South Wales.

Senior spinal surgeon is Mr Paul Rhys Davies who works as Clinical Director, while Mr Mike McCarthy is the Clinical Outcomes Primary Investigator, working alongside spinal surgeons Mr James Cordell Smith, Mr Stuart James and Mr Iqroop Chopra.

All of the team also works within the NHS at University Hospital of Wales and Royal Gwent Hospital, as well as in the independent sector. Their clinical work encompasses neuro-spinal work and paediatric scoliosis (curvature of the spine) as well as orthopaedic spinal surgery.

Paul Rhys Davies said: "At the Vale

Hospital, we seek to provide excellent outcomes for all of our patients undergoing spinal surgery.

"However, we recognise that we need to continually review our practice against the best spinal centres and understand better how successful we are in our efforts in treating patients with often complex spinal problems. My colleagues and I welcome the efforts of the hospital management, and our partners, to embark on this programme to support and improve the services we provide to patients."

A large part of the work is about comprehensively measuring quality

and outcomes for patients with spinal disorders.

A review was undertaken to identify the required dataset and patient experience factors, based on a review of literature and with reference to international centres.

Simon Rogers, chief executive at Nuffield Health Hospitals Cardiff & Vale, commented: "This is an innovative and exciting development for patients requiring spinal surgery.

"We hope that our work will provide a reference point for the other four spinal units in the Nuffield Health group and the wider UK hospital sector."