

# Musculoskeletal services in Cwm Taf Local Health Board

*“There are over 200 different types of arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions”<sup>1</sup>*

Musculoskeletal conditions are the most common type of self-reported illness, and account for almost 20% of all GP consultations in the UK<sup>1,2</sup>

*“In Wales £90 million is spent each year on incapacity benefits to individuals suffering with back pain”<sup>1</sup>*

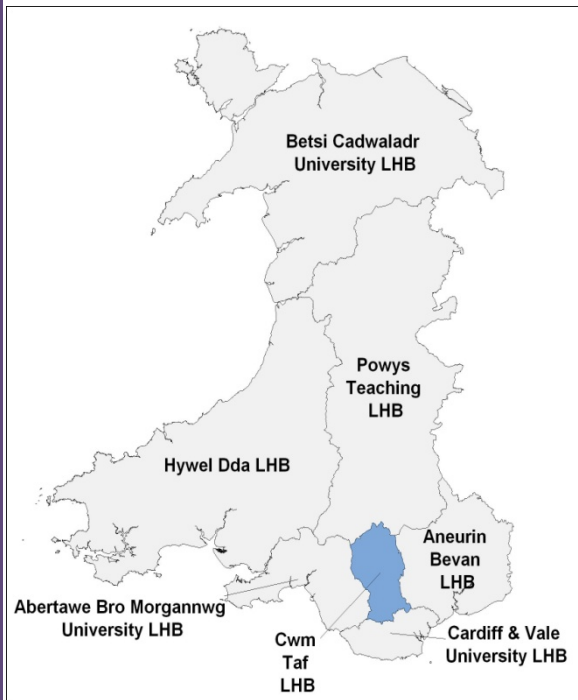
Approximately 27,000 people living with arthritis in the UK are under the age of 25<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Welsh Assembly Government, *Service Development and Commissioning Directives: Arthritis and Chronic Musculoskeletal Conditions*, 2007

<sup>2</sup>Arthritis Care, *FAQs*, 2011, accessed via:

<http://www.arthritiscare.org.uk/AboutArthritis/FAQs>

<sup>3</sup>Cwm Taf Local Health Board, *FOI response*, 2012



Expenditure on musculoskeletal conditions at Cwm Taf<sup>3</sup>:

2009/10	£26,001,674
2010/11	£28,905,392

There have been three rheumatologists in Cwm Taf Local Health Board over the last three years.

The physiotherapy service works alongside surgeons and other clinical colleagues to support, develop and agree protocols for each specific condition. Staff work within professional standards supported by the Chartered the Society of Physiotherapy and the British Medical Association.

Includes musculoskeletal conditions within definition of long-term conditions



Identified all long-term conditions patients



Audit of outcomes for patients with musculoskeletal conditions



A list of all clinical guidelines and protocols for musculoskeletal conditions



Received information about the Service Development and Commissioning Directives for arthritis and chronic musculoskeletal conditions



Works with voluntary and community organisations to support patients with musculoskeletal problems



SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR PEOPLE WITH MUSCULOSKELETAL CONDITIONS:

- Pain management service
- Physiotherapy service
- Inflammatory arthritis service as part of a multidisciplinary team in physiotherapy and occupational therapy
- Integrated falls service which has developed falls risk assessment tools and has identified supporting services within the area
- Information for patients on self care
- Education for GPs about how to manage patients with suspected rheumatoid arthritis