Orthopaedic **W**aiting **L**ist **i**nitiative

DIGITAL HEALTH SUPPORTING
NHS WAITING LISTS

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Un Bae Ar y Cyd
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- 38,000 patients wait for planned orthopaedic operations
- More than 108,000 patients wait for other planned surgery
- > 16,000 patients wait more than 52 weeks for treatment
- > 2,000 patients wait more than 104 weeks for treatment
- Almost 50% increase compared to Oct 2014

Welsh Government data **October 2025**

This is just patients waiting for surgery, not diagnostics or first appointments

ORTHOPAEDIC WAITING TIMES AND MANAGEMENT

- **Health Boards currently have limited health data on these patients whilst they wait**
- Many patients live with significant health and well-being challenges which are unrecognized until they are assessed in the weeks before surgery
- Up to 30% of patients experience a further delay at this point in their pre-surgical journey whilst health conditions are being investigated or optimized
- This lost time has a negative impact on the patient, the staff and NHS resource
- Further adds to waiting list times

SO WHAT?

POORLY MANAGED COMORBIDITIES CAN CAUSE:

- FAILED PRE OP ASSESSMENTS
- SURGICAL COMPLICATIONS
- LONGER HOSPITAL STAY
- POOR OUTCOMES FROM SURGERY
- SURGERY DECISION REGRET
- FINANCIAL BURDEN & RESOURCE BURDEN

THE CHALLENGE

“ How can we capture patient health data earlier in planned care pathways. Use it to stratify risk, plus optimize patients health conditions in readiness for surgery ”

A NEW DIGITAL SOLUTION: **OWLi**

A digital platform to monitor patient health and stratify care whilst waiting for surgery

- Allows patients to self report health status and lifestyle habits
- Flags any underlying health conditions that need support
- Links and refers to *Frailty, Prehabilitation* or *self management* support services
- Platform intelligence to risk stratify patients, target pre-operative assessment and optimization services early
- Health screening scoring enables patients to be categorized according to surgical risk to optimize resource planning

THE BENEFITS

- A communication channel between Health Boards and patients
- Collects accurate & current health data
- Supports patients to take an active role in optimizing their health
- Allows Health Boards to plan patient care based on surgical risks and utilize high volume low complexity hospital sites efficiently
- Reduces delays at the preoperative assessment stage as patients are already optimized

OWLI SUCCESS

REGISTERED PATIENTS

- Over 6000 T&O patients registered onto platform
- All benefitting from education, self management support to prepare for surgery

LIFESTYLE AND HEALTH NUDGING

- 239 smokers identified and offered local smoking cessation support
- 891 patient with underlying health conditions identified and nudged to update bloods or tests

NHS SUPPORT SERVICES

- Over 1000 patient identified as needing Physiotherapy or exercise support offered supervised management
- Over 500 patients with obesity referred to specialist weight management
- 15% identified for FRAILTY assessment under POPS services

ANAESTHETIC RISK SCORING (IHSQ)

- NEW platform health screening that uses intelligence to identify low risk patients for HVLC surgery
- Already validated on over 300 T&O and more recently Breast patients
- T&O - 65% low risk patients identified
- Breast - 80% low risk patients identified

@DIGITALHEALTH

@GETTINGREADYFORSURGERY

@DATADRIVENPATHWAYS

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