Welsh Renal Clinical Network: Renal Services in Wales Delivery Plan 2016 to 2020

Date of Expiry / Review: 31 March 2020
This WHC replaces WHC (2007)022 on the Policy Statement and National Service Framework on Designed to Tackle Renal Disease in Wales.

For Action by:
Health Boards and Trusts
Welsh Renal Clinical Network

Action required by: 1 October 2016
See paragraph 3

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Enclosure(s): see hyperlinks
Summary
1. The purpose of this Welsh Health Circular is to highlight the publication by the Welsh Renal Clinical Network (WRCN) of the Renal Services in Wales Delivery Plan, 2016 to 2020.


Action
3. Health Boards and NHS Trusts, where appropriate, are expected to work with the WRCN, towards implementing the Renal Services in Wales Delivery Plan from 1 November 2016.

4. Health boards should take account of the priorities for renal disease when developing their Integrated Medium Term Plans (IMTPs).

Background
5. Designed to Tackle Renal Disease in Wales was published in 2007 and set out the Welsh Government policy and standards for renal services.

6. Using the Renal National Service Framework to guide the agenda the WRCN has led the commissioning of adult renal services since 2010 and during this time a number of improvements have been realised:
   - Additional unit haemodialysis capacity.
   - Improved local access to renal services.
   - Increased access to home dialysis therapies including nocturnal dialysis.
   - Increased rates of transplantation for renal patients.
   - Increased workforce for home therapies, vascular services and medical staff.
   - National prescribing contracts for key renal medicines, improving clinical management and releasing savings for reinvestment.
   - Development of a national audit process to provide quality assurance, share learning and identify areas for improvement.

7. Despite these improvements, many challenges remain such as:
   - Number of patients receiving peritoneal dialysis, home dialysis, unit haemodialysis, managing their chronic kidney disease through conservative management or with a functioning transplant is rising
   - Risk factors for developing progressive chronic kidney disease and subsequently needing renal replacement therapy, are numerous
   - Specific and cumulative effect of obesity, diabetes, aging, ethnicity and cardiovascular disease are not fully understood
   - Incidence and prevalence of dialysis is higher in Wales than in other parts of the UK
8. The updated policy is set out in the WRCN’s *Renal Services in Wales Delivery Plan, 2016 to 2020*. This document, which will replace the current Welsh Government Designed to Tackle Renal Disease Policy Statement and National Service Framework, is available on WRCN website.


9. The Renal Services Delivery Plan provides a framework for action by health boards and trusts. It sets out the expectations of the NHS in Wales to commission and deliver high quality patient centred care for anyone affected by Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD). It focuses on meeting population needs, improving access to services and reducing inequalities in outcomes across seven themes:

- Delivery Theme 1: Preventing the development of CKD
- Delivery Theme 2: Early identification and management of CKD
- Delivery Theme 3: Delivering fast, effective care
- Delivery Theme 4: Meeting People’s Needs
- Delivery Theme 5: Caring at the end of life
- Delivery Theme 6: Improving Information
- Delivery Theme 7: Targeting research

10. The WRCN has consulted widely and developed Service Specification documents. Health boards should use these to help in planning and auditing services. WRCN are issuing these documents to the service and will collaborate with health boards on their use, especially in relation to WRCN’s continued commissioning role.

11. The Delivery Plan sets out:

- Delivery expectations for the management of renal conditions.
- Specific priorities for 2016 and subsequent years.
- Responsibility to develop and deliver actions to achieve the specific priorities.
- Population outcome indicators and NHS assurance measures.

12. The Renal Services Delivery Plan will be reviewed and updated regularly by the WRCN. In the short term it is expected to expand to include both adult and children renal services explicitly.

13. Similarly, the management of Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) is not – other than when renal replacement therapy is required - a WRCN responsibility. A set of guidance on AKI is being prepared on an all Wales basis, by a steering group hosted by WRCN.

14. The service specifications expand on the delivery themes giving detail of the outcomes and actions required and echo aspects of the drive to secure prudent healthcare by:

- Questioning all routine practice carrying a risk.
• Changing our relationship with testing.
• Giving patients the time and opportunity to think about treatment options.
• Using standard pathways for frequently used services.
• Thinking more widely about how to support patients in meeting lifestyle needs.

15. These can be accessed via the WRCN Website: [www.wales.nhs.uk/welshrenalnetworks](http://www.wales.nhs.uk/welshrenalnetworks).

16. Unlike other Delivery Plans, an Implementation Group will not be established. Instead oversight on delivery will be through the WRCN Board. Health Boards will be represented on the Network Board and must liaise with the WRCN as appropriate.
Distribution to:

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Director, Finance Director and Director of Planning of Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC)
Welsh Renal Clinical Network

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