

WELSH HEALTH CIRCULAR



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Title: NHS Wales Peer Review Framework

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For Action by:

Chief Executives (via the NHS Wales Collaborative Executive Group); Medical Directors and Nurse Directors of Health Boards and NHS Trusts

For information:

Chairs and Board Secretaries of Health Boards and NHS Trusts
Members of the National Quality and Safety Forum;
Members of the Peer Review Task and Finish Group;
DG/Chief Executive NHS Wales
Deputy Chief Executive NHS Wales
Operations Team – Health and Social Services Group, Welsh Government
Communications Team – Health and Social Services Group, Welsh Government
Chief Medical Officer
Deputy Chief Medical Officer

Action required by: With immediate effect

Sender: Janet Davies, Head of Healthcare Quality, Health and Social Services Group.

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Enclosure(s):

This WHC, together with the Annexes listed below can be found on the NHS Wales Governance E-Manual at: <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/governance-emanual/page/92766>

Annex 1: NHS Wales Peer Review Framework

Dear colleagues,

NHS Wales Peer Review Framework

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Review of Health Care Quality in the UK 2016 made positive comments regarding peer review in Wales. The OECD's recommendations included increasing the use of peer review and finding ways to integrate lessons learned, recognising that peer review is an important tool for quality improvement.

Consequently a peer review framework has been developed, building on existing schemes such as those for cancer, audiology, and palliative care.

A pan Wales Peer Review Steering Group consisting of representatives from across the NHS in Wales was established in 2015, under the direction of the National Quality and Safety Forum, to take forward the work. We are very grateful to Dr Tom Crosby, who chaired the group and to colleagues for all their input.

In terms of roll out, peer review is an enabler for continuous quality improvement, and therefore supports Health and Care Standard 3.3 (Quality Improvement, Research and Innovation). In practical terms it is acknowledged that it has consequences on staff time, training, planning and resources. Accordingly any expansion of peer review within NHS Wales should take a measured approach to help ensure that worthwhile quality improvements materialise from undertaking the reviews.

The framework has been endorsed by the NHS Wales Collaborative Executive Group of Chief Executives and the NHS Wales Collaborative's governance structure will, in due course, oversee an all-Wales programme of peer review.

This framework guidance should now be used by NHS Wales to ensure peer reviews are carried out consistently and pragmatically, and produce measureable benefits.

Yours sincerely,

Janet Davies
Head of Healthcare Quality, Health and Social Services Group