

Vaughan Gething AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref VG/05261/20

Dai Lloyd MS
Chair
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

27 August 2020

Dear Dai,

Thank you for your letter of 27 July seeking an update on advance care planning (ACP) and in particular an update on progress with development of an electronic patient record.

The Welsh Government is committed to ensuring people can end their lives in the locations of their choice – whether that is in their own home, in hospital or in a hospice setting. Good progress has been made on ACP across a number of areas. These include but are not limited to:

- Establishing an Advance Future Care Planning (AFCP) Strategic Group to provide clear leadership and strategic direction for all aspects of ACP across Wales;
- Implementing a single All-Wales do not attempt cardiopulmonary resuscitation (DNACPR) form;
- Initiating a serious illness conversation training programme;
- Supporting a website that summarises AFCP projects from across Wales, to showcase good practice and encourage cross-collaboration and less repetition (<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/researchandresources/publications/nhswalesadvancefuturecareplans>);
- Supporting advance care planning facilitators in Welsh health boards;
- Developing an All Wales Paediatric Advance Care Plan (PAC-Plan);
- Supporting the Talk CPR (CardioPulmonary Resuscitation) website (<http://TalkCPR.wales>) to encourage conversation about CPR for people affected by life-limiting and palliative illnesses;
- Supporting the use of the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board COVID-19 Treatment Escalation Plan across Wales for singular use (i.e. a specific treatment episode in hospital for instance);

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

- Publishing a statement covering the current status of those patients during COVID-19, who do not have a prior established DNACPR and/or AACP decision and the decision making processes in acute situations
<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/researchandresources/publications/sharingandinvolvingaclinicalpolicyfordonotattemptcardiopulmonaryresuscitationdnacprforadultsinwales>;
- Organising a national AACP conference where stakeholders from across Wales came together to set a strategic direction for AACP.

Feedback from the AACP conference included requests for good link up between all the different electronic systems, including from primary care and secondary care, so that Advance and Future Care Plans are widely accessible and visible. A system that makes patients' wishes available to professionals needs to be a key component of any electronic health and care record.

The AACP group subsequently produced an electronic record specification and received presentations from three off-the shelf providers who were selectively chosen following discussion with English NHS Trusts and representatives from NHS Digital. Whilst Coordinate my Care was considered the product with the best fit with the electronic specification, it was acknowledged that any system would need to be procured in a transparent and open manner.


This was then referred to the End of Life Care Board in December and was scheduled to be discussed at its Board meeting in March. Unfortunately due to Covid-19, this meeting was cancelled and it was not discussed until the June meeting.

The Board were grateful to the AACP group for the significant amount of work undertaken to get this far, however, there remained some concerns that any solution should be fully integrated with the work being undertaken centrally by NWIS to develop a national data resource (NDR). The NDR will deliver a more joined up approach to health and care data, using common language and technical standards. It will improve the way data is collected, shared and used across health and care organisations in Wales and will drive forward the interoperability of health and care systems.

Given the potential for overlap between functionality that the NDR and a system like Coordinate my Care will provide, the chair of the End of Life Care Board has asked for an outline business case to be produced to demonstrate the value for money of procuring such a system. Work on the business case will commence shortly.

Please be assured that the Welsh Government remains committed to improving AACP in Wales and will continue to work with the End of Life Care Board on this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Vaughan Gething AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services