



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1236
Ein cyf/Our ref EM/14336/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

14 December 2021

Dear Jack,

PETITION P-06-1236 – WOMEN SHOULD BE REGULARLY SCREENED WITH A BLOOD TEST CALLED CA125 TO DETECT FOR OVARIAN CANCER

Thank you for your letter of 25 November.

The Welsh Government would like as many cancers as possible to be detected at earlier, more treatable stages and we expect primary care to investigate women with symptoms of suspected cancer, or at high risk of ovarian cancer, in line with guidance from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE).

The current guidance indicates that a CA125 blood test should be performed on women with symptoms of ovarian cancer to guide whether there is a need for a follow-up ultrasound. However, this is for the investigation of clinically suspected cancer and not as part of a routine population screening programme, as the current test is not accurate enough for this purpose. We continue to encourage women to seek prompt advice from their primary care teams if they have symptoms suggestive of cancer.

All population-based, asymptomatic screening programmes are developed and delivered using the best available evidence and are subject to regular review. The UK National Screening Committee (UKNSC) provides independent, expert advice to all UK Ministers on screening and does not currently recommend screening for ovarian cancer.

The UKNSC considered screening for ovarian cancer in 2017. The committee looked at clinical trial data from the United Kingdom Collaborative Trial of Ovarian Cancer Screening

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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.

(UKCTOCS) trial where women were screened for ovarian cancer. In this trial screening did not reduce the number of women who had died from ovarian cancer. The trial will continue to follow the women who were screened and the committee agreed to review longer term results when they are published. Should the UKNSC change its recommendation, the Welsh Government will consider how this can be implemented in Wales.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

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