



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1240
Ein cyf/Our ref EM/02219/22

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions Committee
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21 July 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 7 June as Chair of the Petitions Committee about *Petition P-06-1240 Improve health services for people with epilepsy living in Wales*, and the question from the committee about how the Welsh Government are monitoring that each health board has the appropriate level of support that is needed for people with epilepsy.

Welsh Government set the strategy, vision, and expectations for neurological services, including epilepsy, through the Neurological Conditions Implementation Plan. The implementation of this plan has and continues to be supported by the Neurological Conditions Implementation Group (NCIG) and the national Clinical Lead for Neurological Conditions.

The NCIG and clinical lead have highlighted several challenges in relation to monitoring services for those people with neurological conditions, including the availability, quality and timeliness of data related to neurological conditions, including epilepsy. This is an area ripe for improvement, and one that has been prioritised by the clinical lead and NCIG, who are currently working with the Value Based Health Care team and Digital Health and Care Wales to develop a data dashboard for epilepsy. This will provide valuable information from a monitoring and assurance perspective, but also help to support health boards to develop business cases for developing services for people with epilepsy going forward. An early version of the dashboard has been published, but development is continuing to include patient reported experience and outcome measures.

Discussions around the addition of neurological conditions, including epilepsy, on the national dashboard as a way of monitoring services and identifying inequalities (such as number of Epilepsy Specialist Nurses and caseloads) are also underway. The NCIG has

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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.

secured clinical representation at the modernising outpatients dataset programme as part of the planned care programme, which will help improve quality and availability of data.

Moving forward, the Neurological Conditions Implementation Plan will be replaced by the Neurological Conditions Quality Statement. This has been developed by the NCIG and will be published later this year. Quality Statements are a key feature introduced by the National Clinical Framework (published in March 2021) which describes how the strategic development of healthcare services can make the NHS in Wales fit for the 21st century. 'Quality Statements' set out what good looks like for high quality, patient focused services.

We expect health boards, trusts and Special Health Authorities to respond to Quality Statements through their planning processes, and the monitoring of all services, including those for people with epilepsy, will be significantly improved as the work initiated by NCIG to improve the availability, quality and timeliness of data continues to develop.

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