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Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros  
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Cabinet Secretary for  
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Jayne Bryant AS/MS  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd Meddwl  
a'r Blynnyddoedd Cynnar  
Minister for Mental Health  
and Early Years



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Our ref MA LN 5488 24

Buffy Williams MS  
Chair  
Children, Young People and Education Committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

19 June 2024

Dear Buffy,

As requested, please find updates to recommendations from the CYPE Committee's report on **Mental Health in Higher Education** to be shared with the committee.

### **Recommendation 28**

Welsh Government is supportive of the view that registering with a GP should be as straightforward as possible and that this process should be consistent across Wales to ensure equity of access.

In Wales there is currently a standard GMS1 form to complete the registration process with a practice. Anyone having difficulty in registering with a GP can contact their Local Health Board who will assign the patient to a practice. Local Health Boards also provide GP practices across Wales with access to telephone translation services to support accessibility.

In October 2023, the new General Medical Services Unified Contract came into effect. This new contract streamlines and clarifies the services all practices in Wales must provide. The 2023 Regulations which underpin this contract also set out requirements around registration, including:

- anyone in Wales can register with a GP for treatment;
- it is not necessary to have a fixed address or identification to register; and
- anyone who is registered with a GP can get free prescriptions.

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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.

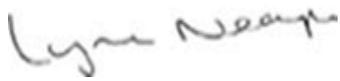
These contractual changes are currently embedding within the system, and it is important that research into any further changes – including the feasibility of online registration, is taken forward at an appropriate point to capture ongoing improvements in access to GP services and digital access tools. We will monitor contract implementation during 2024-25, commissioning research on patient experience of access at the point which would allow for consideration of impact of these contractual changes.

### **Recommendation 29**

GP to GP electronic medical record transfer (GP2GP) - Earlier this year NHS Wales completed the implementation of GP2GP 'Large Medical Records' for all GP Practices clinical systems. The remaining functionality to be deployed in quarter two this year will be 'A to B to A' record transfers, ie. when a patient returns and re-registers with their previous GP practice. A solution for 'cross border' GP2GP records transfers is being explored in partnership with NHS England and the respective system suppliers, however, it is unlikely a cross-border solution with England will be available before 2026.

If you, or the members of your Committee have any specific questions in the meantime we will be pleased to provide additional information where possible.

Yours sincerely



**Lynne Neagle AS/MS**  
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