



Response to the National Assembly for Wales' Health and Social Care Committee Inquiry into the availability of bariatric services

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Welsh Independent Healthcare Association (WIHA) is a representative association of the vast majority of independent acute and mental health hospitals in Wales. WIHA represents the interests of a number of healthcare organisations in order to make a positive contribution to public policy regarding healthcare in Wales.
- 1.2. This submission is made on the basis that:
 - All six WIHA acute member hospitals undertake bariatric surgery and have experience in this field.
 - WIHA is linked with the UK-wide Independent Healthcare Advisory Services (IHAS) which has an active Bariatric Work Group that has produced Bariatric Surgery Clinical Guidelines for WIHA hospitals and is taking forward an active programme – full details provided at section 3.
- 1.3. WIHA is pleased to comment on this inquiry and would welcome the opportunity to present oral evidence to the Committee. WIHA has focused its response on one aspect of the inquiry namely: *The availability of obesity surgery and specialist weight management services across Wales.*
- 1.4. For information, the WIHA 2012/13 Credentials document¹ profiles the independent healthcare sector across Wales. The following statistics demonstrate the size of the sector:
 - The sector managed 147,686 bed days in 2012-13.
 - Of these bed days nearly 121,000 were in the mental health sector.
 - Acute hospitals treated more than 16,000 inpatient/day-case episodes.
 - The independent healthcare sector in Wales employs more than 2,100 people.
- 1.5. For a full list of WIHA members, please see: [WIHA membership list](#)

2. The availability of obesity surgery and specialist weight management services across Wales

All six WIHA acute member hospitals provide bariatric surgery. The following table sets out the bariatric surgical services provided by each hospital:

¹ A PDF version of WIHA 2012/13 Credentials is attached with this submission.

| Name of Hospital | Location | Bariatric Surgery Procedures available |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| BMI Werndale Hospital | Carmarthen | Gastric Balloon, Gastric Band, Gastric Bypass, Gastric Sleeve (Sleeve Gastrectomy) |
| Nuffield Cardiff & Vale Hospitals | Vale of Glamorgan | Gastric Band, Gastric Bypass, Sleeve Gastrectomy |
| Sancta Maria Hospital | Swansea | Gastric Bypass, Gastric Sleeve |
| Spire Cardiff Hospital | Cardiff | Gastric Balloon, Gastric Band, Gastric Bypass, Gastric Sleeve (Sleeve Gastrectomy) |
| Spire Yale Hospital | Wrexham | Gastric Balloon, Gastric Balloon (Obalon), Gastric Band, Gastric Bypass, Gastric Sleeve (Sleeve Gastrectomy) |
| St Joseph's Hospital | Newport | Gastric Balloon |

3. The Bariatric Surgery agenda in the independent healthcare sector

- 3.1. IHAS has produced *Clinical Guidelines for the Establishment of a Bariatric Surgical Service* (attached) to which all WIHA hospital providers will need to adhere. The document was produced in co-operation with BOMSS (the British Obesity and Metabolic Surgery Society), SOBA UK (the Society for Obesity and Bariatric Anaesthesia) and Phoenix Health.
- 3.2. The IHAS Bariatric Work Group, chaired by the Group Medical Director of BMI Healthcare is currently taking forward the following issues in response to the NCEPOD report on bariatric surgery *Too Lean a Service?*:
- Working through the concept of the Multi-disciplinary team for the independent sector.
 - Working with Specialist Associations on providing guidance regarding the numbers of procedures which both independent operators and institutions should achieve in order to optimise outcomes.
 - Reviewing the processes in place to provide long-term follow-up for bariatric patients.
 - Producing guidelines on advertising bariatric surgery.
 - Developing training requirements of professional staff providing bariatric care.
- 3.3. The IHAS Bariatric Work Group is holding a seminar on 4 April 2014 entitled: *“Are you meeting the minimum standards to be a bariatric surgery provider?”* at which David Wilmott, Head of Nursing and Quality at Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee will hopefully be presenting on *“How the regulators are taking forward the bariatric surgery agenda.”*

4. Concluding remarks

- 4.1. If you have any queries about the content of this response, please do not hesitate to follow up with Sally Taber directly. As mentioned above, WIHA would welcome the opportunity to present at one of the two oral evidence sessions.

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