



Bwrdd Iechyd
Cwm Taf
Health Board

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Sent by email to:

HSCCommittee@wales.gov.uk

Dear Colleague

Access to medical technologies in Wales

With reference to your recent letter, thank you for an opportunity to comment on the scope of the enquiry on access to medical technologies in Wales.

The Health Board is very pleased that this work is being undertaken on this important topic and has the following observations to make on the questions in your letter:

- We would welcome the scope of the enquiry to include looking at the process of evaluating new technologies including new medical techniques and how this could be undertaken on an All Wales basis, in a similar way to how drugs are treated. We would also welcome the scope to also look at how we could develop an All Wales approach to decisions to adopt new technologies as well as how they should be funded.
- At the present time, the main barrier to the uptake of medical technology/ new non drug treatments in Wales is two fold:
 - ✓ Effective appraisal of clinical and cost effectiveness and
 - ✓ Financial – how they are funded
- The current appraisal for new technologies relies on the limited NICE technology guidance's that are available and then on Health Board internal appraisals, usually via their respective IPFR processes. Whilst every effort is done to limit duplication and to ensure consistency, an All Wales approach is required, with an agreed transparent methodology for undertaking the appraisal. In addition, these appraisals need to be undertaken in a timely way, to avoid confusion and frustration with clinicians.
- The decision making process in Wales is often driven in the first instance via the LHBs IPFR process. This is because these treatments or technologies are not routinely available in NHS Wales. It would be helpful if via an All Wales appraisal process that decisions to adopt a new technology/ treatment could be made on All Wales basis based on a robust All Wales appraisal process. However it is important that such decisions would need to be made in the context of available resources, especially where new investment would be required.

We would welcome contributing further to this important work and would be happy to provide further information as required

Yours sincerely

Allison Williams
Chief Executive