



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1240  
Ein cyf/Our ref EM/14732/21

Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair - Petitions committee

31 January 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your e-mail of 13 December, regarding Petition P-06-1240, Improving health services for people with epilepsy living in Wales, submitted by Janet Paterson. I apologise for the delay in my response.

The Welsh Government is continuing to work with the Neurological Conditions Implementation Group (NCIG) to improve services for all those with neurological conditions across Wales, including epilepsy.

The NCIG provides national leadership and drives forward change to deliver better quality, higher value, more consistent and accessible services for people affected by neurological conditions, taking into consideration the challenges and opportunities raised by the Covid-19 pandemic. Their aim is to continue to raise awareness of neurological conditions, and to ensure those affected by any kind of neurological condition have timely access to high quality pathways of care from symptom onset to end of life.

In addition, the NCIG is currently working with the Value Based Health Care team to develop a data dashboard for epilepsy which will help to support business cases for developing services and support for people with epilepsy going forward. Discussions around including epilepsy on the national dashboard as a way of monitoring services and identifying inequalities are underway, and the group recognises the importance of quality data for service improvements and the challenges faced to date in this area.

Our National Clinical Framework (NCF) published in March 2021, describes how clinical services, such as neurological conditions, should be provided over the next decade and how we can better support system planning and quality improvement. The NCF will be supported by a range of quality statements that set out high-level policy intentions and describe the standards and outcomes expected of clinical services. The NCIG is currently working on a specific quality statement for neurological conditions.

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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.

We are also aware of UK Government plans to publish a cross government strategy on neurological conditions and are liaising with the Department of Health and Social Care to ensure that any such strategy takes into account that health services are devolved in Wales, as well as consideration of our national clinical framework and developing quality statements.

Health boards and trusts remain responsible for planning and delivering services for those with neurological conditions including epilepsy. They undertake population needs analysis to help establish required levels of staffing, including Epilepsy Specialist Nurses. I expect them to put in place services tailored to the individual needs of patients. They work closely with voluntary organisations and people with a lived experience of a neurological condition, to continually improve services.

I expect to see transformation to deliver increased and more consistent provision of rehabilitation, reablement and recovery services, including neuro-rehabilitation to ensure people can maximise their recovery from ill-health as close to home as possible and live healthier, happier, longer, independent lives.

I hope this information is helpful in addressing some of the issues raised by the Petition.

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