

Cyfarwyddwr Cyffredinol Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol/  
Prif Weithredwr GIG Cymru  
Grŵp Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol

Director General Health and Social Services/  
NHS Wales Chief Executive  
Health and Social Services Group



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Nick Ramsay MS  
Chair Public Accounts Committee  
Welsh Parliament  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

28 August 2020

Dear Mr Ramsay

### **Medicines Management**

Further to correspondence from the Clerk to the Committee dated 7 May, this letter provides a further update on progress requested by the Public Account's Committee in relation to recommendations made in its report on Medicines Management.

In my response to the Committee of 10 February, I advised that initiatives to improve repeat prescribing and reducing waste were addressed in our previous responses to recommendations 2 and 12 of the Committee's report. The All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre (AWTTC) has provided guidance on repeat prescribing and I expect health boards to be implementing that guidance. Additionally, in light of new ways of working brought about by COVID-19 we have issued additional guidance for primary care on effective [management of repeat prescribing](#), alongside accompanying [information for patients and the public](#).

As I advised in my letter of 10 February, Patient Safety Notice (PSN) 030 was the subject of a review in 2018. The review concluded the standards for medicine storage set out in the notice remain extant. The Royal Pharmaceutical Society's Professional guidance on the safe and secure handling of medicines, which was also published in 2018, provides further advice on safe storage of medicines that I expect NHS organisations to implement. Prior to COVID-19, work had been progressing to develop a standardised risk assessment to support NHS organisations in identifying the highest priority improvements to medicines storage. Final testing of the risk assessment was completed late in 2019 and had COVID-19 not intervened the revised PSN would have been issued in the spring. We are now preparing for the revised PSN to be issued before the end of the year and I will ensure a copy is sent to the committee when it issues.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Goodall', written in a cursive style.

**Dr Andrew Goodall**

cc: Andrew Evans, Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, Welsh Government  
CGU Mailbox  
Cabinet Mailbox