

WELSH HEALTH CIRCULAR



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Issue Date: 07.06.2017

STATUS: COMPLIANCE

CATEGORY: QUALITY & SAFETY

Title: REDUCTION IN HOSPITAL FOOD WASTE TARGET FROM UN-SERVED MEALS TO 5%

Date of Expiry / Review: 01.07.2019

For Action by:

LHB Chairs
LHB Chief Executives
LHB Board Secretaries
LHB Medical Directors
LHB Directors of Nursing

For Welsh Government Action (or information):

DG/Chief Executive NHS Wales
Deputy Chief Exec NHS Wales
Professional & Policy Leads
DHSS Operations Team
DHSS Comms Team
DHSS Digital Team
DHSS Delivery & Finance Team
NHS Wales Shared Services

Action required by: See paragraph 9

Sender: Jean White – Chief Nursing Officer

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Enclosure(s): None

1. This circular summarises the duties of health boards in respect of reducing hospital food waste from unserved meals.
2. Reducing food waste remains an important part of controlling the cost of hospital catering services.
3. Following the 2011 Wales Audit Office review of hospital nutrition and hydration the Welsh Government subsequently set a 10% food waste target for un-served meals, which NHS organisations had to achieve by the end of 2012-13.
4. The Wales Audit Office (WAO) Hospital Catering and Patient Nutrition Review (2015) concluded that NHS hospitals had reduced food waste since 2011 as a result of a concerted effort.
5. Most health organisations are currently operating within the existing 10% target for hospital food waste for unserved meals
6. Following the WAO audit (2015) the Public Accounts Committee published its review of hospital catering and patient nutrition in March 2017.
7. In spite of the improvement the cost of waste remains high. The latest annual figures show that there is still a cost of £903,600 to the NHS in Wales from unserved meals.
8. The Public Accounts Committee recommended in March 2017 that the Welsh Government revise the target for reducing food waste to challenge the health boards to minimise waste and maximise savings.
9. Welsh Government now requests that the target for food waste from unserved meals should be reduced from 10% to 5%.
10. This target will be in place in June when data are being collected for the 2016-17 Estates Facilities Performance Management System (EPFMS) managed by NHS Shared Services Partnership – Specialist Estate Services (NWSSP-SES).
11. The performance of the NHS bodies to monitor food waste will be assessed by Welsh Government when the EPFMS report is formally submitted by NWSSP-SES in early autumn 2018.