

# WELSH HEALTH CIRCULAR



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

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**STATUS: INFORMATION**

**CATEGORY: QUALITY & SAFETY**

**Title: REVIEW OF LOW AND MEDIUM SECURE PLACEMENTS IN THE INDEPENDENT SECTOR**

**Date of Expiry / Review:**18.03.2016

**For Action (or information)by:**

Chairs  
Chief Executives  
Board Secretaries  
Medical Directors  
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

**Action required by:**

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**Enclosure(s):** None

**Review of low and medium secure placements in the independent sector for people with learning disabilities. A second phase of review will be for people with mental health conditions.**

This circular is to inform you of a review process being instigated for low and medium secure placements in independent sector hospitals for patients commissioned by the NHS in Wales.

1. Following receipt of intelligence about care in independent sector hospitals for mental health and learning disabilities, the Minister has decided to instigate a review of mental health and learning disability placements in low to medium secure, independent sector hospitals.
2. The key questions that will be posed during the review are:
  - I. How do service providers in low and medium secure independent sector hospitals ensure that primary health care needs are being met?
  - II. Is the placement the most appropriate form of service for the individual patients?
  - III. Is there a comprehensive discharge plan in place?
  - IV. What impact does the mental health measure have on patient experience/ outcomes for people in independent sector hospitals?
3. The responsibility for commissioning the services in this sector lies with the Health Boards. Commissioning arrangements must ensure compliance of the Mental Health Measure (Wales) 2010 in that all patients in these placements have a care co-ordinator.
4. The commissioning and quality assurance process of this provision is managed by NHS Wales National Collaborative Commissioning (NCC) on behalf of the health boards. NCC has oversight of all independent sector placements through the National Frameworks, can access to the appropriate data and can provide a level of consistency required for the review process.
5. While clearly Healthcare Inspectorate Wales (HIW) has responsibility for inspection within the sector, given the commissioning element of the review it has been decided that NCC will lead the process of this review. NCC will liaise closely with individual health boards, care co-ordinators and HIW.
6. The review process will begin in April 2016 with conclusion by the end of July 2016
7. The order in which individual providers will be reviewed will be determined by NCC who will contact health boards with details of the reviews inviting representation from care coordinators or other

identified health board staff. However if health board staff are not available the review will go ahead as planned

8. Outcomes of the review process:

- Overall report on primary care (with information on HB footprints) and information leading to recommendations
- Individual reports following the reviews, including reference to other sources of evidence such as HIW reports, care and treatment reviews and QAIT evidence with recommendations to commissioners and care co-ordinators on the future provision of care for the individual
- An overall aggregated report with specific recommendations on the following:
  - Recommendations for NCC/Commissioners on Independent sector placements
  - HIW in terms of their role in developing specifications for delivery and monitoring of standards in terms of access to primary care
  - The next stage development of the review of commissioning of placements in the independent sector hospitals.