

WELSH HEALTH CIRCULAR



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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CATEGORY: POLICY

Title: Nationally Standardised Adult Inpatient Assessment and Core Risk Assessments

Date of Expiry / Review N/A

For Action by:

Health board and trust Chief Executives
Health board and trust Executive Nurse Directors
Health board and trust Assistant Directors of Informatics

Action required by:

30/11/2019

Sender:

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Enclosure(s): N/A

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Chief Nursing Officer - Nurse Director NHS Wales



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Dear Colleagues,

Introduction of Nationally Standardised Core Risk Assessments

The attached Welsh Health Circular sets out the progress of the national digitisation of nursing documents programme. It also outlines the crucial next steps for health boards/trusts, and the agreed implementation schedule of the various assessment tools that have been developed through the national programme in association with NHS Wales staff.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that in November 2018, the Chief Executive NHS Wales (Dr Andrew Goodall CBE) wrote to chief executives regarding the Clinical Nursing Informatics Lead posts to be appointed in each health board/trust. That letter advised that from March 2020 - up to which point the posts would be funded by Welsh Government - the Clinical Nursing Informatics Lead posts will be funded by individual health boards/trusts.

These posts are essential to maintaining the ongoing standardisation of nursing documents and to lead the implementation of digitisation of nursing documents. Ultimately, the audit data will be used to drive improvements in patient outcomes and experience.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Jean White CBE MStJ
Chief Nursing Officer
Nurse Director NHS Wales

Introduction of Nationally Standardised Core Risk Assessments.

Current Position

The current level of standardisation across nursing documents in NHS Wales is limited. The commitment was made with the establishment of the national project to standardise and digitise nursing documents. The standardisation will reduce variation and develop a national approach to standardise nursing documents and support improved compliance with local and national documentation audits/inspections, including Health and Care Standards audit compliance. The first phase of the project has focused on the introduction of standardised e-nursing documents in secondary care, a community based nutritional risk assessment and a standard nursing language for Wales. The vision is to implement consistent information standards across all patient populations and healthcare settings in Wales.

Nursing documents across NHS Wales currently utilise varying formats for nursing assessments and risk assessments that includes primarily paper processes, with some digital in a few speciality areas. In relation to patient admission assessment, some health boards/trusts have adopted the 'Unified Assessment' (Welsh Assembly Government, 2002) as a framework for nursing assessment, others the 'Fundamentals of Care' (Welsh Assembly Government, 2003) and others the 'Activities of Daily Living' (Roper, Logan, & Tierney, 1980). Additionally, there are multiple risk assessment tools of which some are not evidenced-based and do not have embedded clinical decision support tools to assist in the prevention of risk and harm to patients.

The Digitisation of Nursing Documentation project was established in order to deliver standardised electronic nursing documentation, in support of Work stream 2 of the Prudent Healthcare Strategy across all care settings. The project's first phase has been funded by the Welsh Government Efficiency Through Technology Fund (ETTF) with the aim of making an agreed first tranche of digitised nursing documents available nationally by November 2019.

National multidisciplinary speciality groups across Wales were requested to submit evidence based recommendations for the prioritised risk assessments tools to be approved for national use alongside the revised standardised All Wales Adult Inpatient Assessment with a view to digitising each of the assessments. The development of the All Wales Adult Inpatient Assessment was developed in collaboration across the health boards/trusts in Wales and coordinated by Clinical Nursing Informatics Leads from all health boards and trusts. Advice from specialist areas was provided. The assessments have been approved through engaging members of multidisciplinary professions and through a governance structure in NHS Wales.

The New System

The first set of newly standardised assessments are now available in paper and digitised form. It has been decided that the following standardised risk assessments/ documents will be used in NHS organisations across Wales:

- All Wales Adult Inpatient Assessment
- All Wales Continence / Toileting Risk Assessment
- All Wales Falls and Bone Health Multifactorial Assessment
- All Wales Patient Handling Assessment & Safer Handling Plan
- All Wales Adult Nutritional Risk Screening Tool (WAASP) for Inpatients
- All Wales Adult Nutritional Screening Tool (MUST) for Community patients
- All Wales Purpose T Pressure Ulcer Risk Assessment
- All Wales Pain Assessment tools agreed are:
 - Pain AD
 - Abbey Pain Assessment tool
 - 0-10
 - Categorical Rating Scale

All health boards and trusts will identify an individual to lead the implementation of the transformation to the new standardised tools. It has been determined these will be implemented using a phased approach to support the transition to digital forms of the standardised assessment tools. While initial use of the standardised tools may be in paper format, all health boards and trusts will develop an implementation plan to ensure transition to the digital forms of the standardised assessment tools.

Wider members of the multidisciplinary team utilise nursing documentation and hence all staff need to be made aware of these standardised tools. Educational resources are available to support the preparation of staff for the transition to the new tools. Further detail of this information will be communicated via local health board/trust communications.

The required implementation dates of these tools are:

| Assessment Tool | Implemented By |
|--|------------------|
| All Wales Adult Nutritional Risk Screening Tool (WAASP) | 30 November 2019 |
| All Wales Adult Nutritional Screening Tool (MUST) for Community patients | 30 November 2019 |
| All Wales Adult Inpatient Assessment | 1 May 2020 |
| All Wales Continence / Toileting Risk Assessment | 1 May 2020 |
| All Wales Falls and Bone Health Multifactorial Assessment | 1 May 2020 |
| All Wales Patient Handling Assessment & Safer Handling Plan | 1 May 2020 |
| All Wales Purpose T Pressure Ulcer Risk Assessment | 1 May 2020 |



