

WELSH HEALTH CIRCULAR



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Issue Date: 28 July 2023

STATUS: COMPLIANCE / ACTION / INFORMATION

CATEGORY: POLICY

TITLE: NHS FRAMEWORK FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT – Research Matters – What excellence looks like in NHS Wales

Date of Expiry / Review: Under constant review

For Action by:

Action required by: Immediate

Chief Executives, Health Boards/Trusts
Medical Directors, Health Boards/Trusts
Research and Development Directors & Leads, Health Boards/Trusts
Nurse Executive Directors, Health Boards/Trusts
Directors of Therapies and Health Sciences, Health Boards/Trusts
Directors of Finance, Health Boards/Trusts
Directors of Planning, Health Boards/Trusts
Directors of Primary Care, Health Boards/Trust
Directors of Public Health, Health Boards/Trusts
Directors of Workforce and Organisational Development, Health Boards/Trusts
Directors of Patient and Carer Experience, Health Boards /Trusts
Directors of Quality and Safety, Health Boards/Trusts
Independent Board Champions for Research and Development, Health Boards/Trusts
Chief Pharmacists, Health Boards/Trusts
Health Education and Improvement Wales
Digital Health and Care Wales
Social Care Wales
General practitioners
General Practitioners Council Wales

Sender:

HSSG Welsh Government contact(s):

Carys Thomas, Head of Policy, Research and Development Division
Violina Sarma, Head of NHS and Social Care Research Environment
E-mail - hssrd@gov.wales

Enclosures: Annex 1. A copy of the NHS Framework for Research and Development can be found on the Health and Care Research Wales website –

[Research matters - What excellence looks like in NHS Wales
\(healthandcareresearchwales.org\)](http://healthandcareresearchwales.org)

Dear colleagues

Improving health and care services in Wales using evidence-based approaches is fundamental to improving the quality of care and putting the public at the heart of everything. It is widely known that research makes a real difference to improving health outcomes and to the lives of patients and people in our communities.

Health and Care Research Wales has published a new Research and Development (R&D) Framework, in a drive to embed and integrate research into all aspects of health and care services in NHS Wales. It is being published as consistent national guidance to NHS organisations and where its key features are expected to form a core part of organisational culture.

Research is a fundamental component of everyday health and care and is critical to the development of all aspects of NHS Wales. This document is therefore relevant to all those involved in the design, management, and delivery of healthcare in the Welsh NHS including the NHS boards and all executives, those with responsibility for strategy development, clinical leads, professional leads, heads of services, operational managers as well as dedicated research staff such as R&D Directors and leads, research managers and the research workforce.

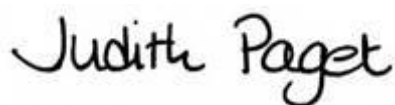
To order to drive excellence, I expect NHS organisations to have a positive culture of continuous improvement through research and this aligns with the Duty of Quality which came into force in April 2023 as part of the Health and Social Care Act 2020.

I expect NHS organisations to use the framework to develop robust plans for the future, working collaboratively with a range of partners, for instance, Health and Care Research Wales, higher education providers, research agencies and funders, third sector organisations, life science companies and the public.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved in developing this comprehensive framework. Together, we have the opportunity to raise our game by striving forward to ensure research is embedded into core healthcare services, and to make the NHS in Wales a place where research matters.

I am grateful to you for the part you will play in that.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith Paget". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Judith Paget
Director General Health & Social Services Group / NHS Wales Chief
Executive