

WHC (2023) 030



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# WELSH HEALTH CIRCULAR

**Status: ACTION**

**Category: QUALITY & SAFETY**

**Title:** New 2023 National Safety Standards for Invasive Procedures (NatSSIPS2) by the Centre for Perioperative Care (CPOC) and Patient Safety Notice PSN 034

**Date of Expiry / Review:** N/A

**Action by:**

**Required by: IMMEDIATE**

Local health boards and NHS trusts, primary care providers.

**For information:** Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW), Healthcare Inspectorate Wales (HIW)

**Sender:** Professor Chris Jones, National Clinical Director, NHS Wales and Deputy Chief Medical Officer

Sue Tranka, Chief Nursing Officer, Nurse Director NHS Wales

**Welsh Government Contacts:** Teresa Bridge, Quality and Safety, Quality and Nursing Directorate. Tel: 03000 256797 Email: [QualityAndNursing@gov.wales](mailto:QualityAndNursing@gov.wales)

**Enclosures:** None

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg hefyd / This document is also available in Welsh  
Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg / We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh



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Yr Athro/Professor Chris Jones  
Cyfarwyddwr Clinigol Cenedlaethol, GIG Cymru  
a Dirprwy Brif Swyddog Meddygol  
National Clinical Director, NHS Wales and Deputy Chief Medical Officer

Sue Tranka  
Prif Swyddog Nyrsio  
Chief Nursing Officer  
Cyfarwyddwr Nyrsio GIG Cymru  
Nurse Director NHS Wales

11 August 2023

Dear Colleagues,

In January, the Centre for Perioperative Care (CPOC) launched the [National Safety Standards for Invasive Procedures \(NatSSIPS2\)](#).

An invasive procedure is described as "...a procedure that is performed where a hole or incision is made in a patient or via a patient orifice and usually where a documented consent is required." The standards cover invasive procedures in all settings, including outpatients and primary care and introduces the concept of checks for major and minor procedures.

NatSSIPS2 have been developed in collaboration across the four UK nations and replace the 2015 NatSSIPs introduced in [Patient Safety Notice PSN034](#). The NHS Wales Executive will **not** be issuing a new Patient Safety Notice since the actions required in PSN034 are equally applicable to NatSSIPS2.

Please note, although NatSSIPS2 have been developed collaboratively, there are some references to policies specific to NHS England, but which have equivalents for NHS Wales, as follows:

<b>NHS England</b>	<b>NHS Wales</b>
Patient Safety Incident Reporting Framework (PRIF)	NHS Wales Executive National Policy on Patient Safety Incident Reporting and Management as detailed in <a href="#">WHC/2023/017</a>
Duty of Candour	<a href="#">The NHS Duty of Candour   GOV.WALES</a> also <a href="#">The Duty of Quality in healthcare   GOV.WALES</a>



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On 17 April the NHS Wales Executive held a symposium focussed on Invasive Procedures, Never Events and Human Factors. Below are links to the recording and resources from the day which you may find useful.

[Human factors in anaesthesia: a narrative review - Kelly - Anaesthesia - Wiley Online Library](#)

[Symposium 2 Morning session recording](#) (requires NHS network access)

[Symposium 2 Afternoon session recording](#) (requires NHS network access)

Queries about NatSSIPs2 should be directed to the NHS Wales Executive at:  
[PatientSafety.Wales@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:PatientSafety.Wales@wales.nhs.uk)

Organisations are expected to act on [NatSSIPs2](#) and ensure that the actions specified in [PSN034](#) are applied accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Jones".

**YR ATHRO/PROFESSOR CHRIS JONES**

Yours sincerely,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sue Tranka".

**SUE TRANKA  
CHIEF NURSING OFFICER  
NURSE DIRECTOR NHS WALES  
PRIF SWYDDOG NYRSIO  
CYFARWYDDWR NYRSIO GIG CYMRU**