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Director General, Health & Social Services
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Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Chief Executives – NHS Health Boards

Eich cyf • Your ref:
Ein cyf • Our ref: PMW/CWILLIAMS/BS- EH/ML/026/10

9 June 2010

Dear Colleagues

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME) Task & Finish Group Report

To support the NHS, the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) published guidelines for the management and diagnosis of CFS/ME in 2007. Local Health Board baseline assessments of current service provision carried out in autumn 2009 have shown that the NHS in Wales has made very limited progress in implementing these guidelines and there remains a lack of evidence and consensus on appropriate assessment and treatment.

The Minister for Health and Social Services set up a Task & Finish Group to look at recommending a care pathway for CFS/ME in Wales and to advise on how existing services could develop and improve to comply with the proposed care pathway. You will already be aware of the Minister's letter to LHB Chairs of 8 June, confirming that she has accepted all their recommendations. Please find attached a final copy of the report.

I can confirm that the Welsh Assembly Government officially endorses the existing international status Map of Medicine care pathway for CFS/ME and Local Health Boards are now required to begin to develop services in line with this care pathway with immediate effect.

In line with the other Task and Finish Group recommendations, I will be commissioning Informing Healthcare to task its Map of Medicine Team to develop a Welsh status care pathway for CFS/ME and one for Fibromyalgia in consultation with clinicians and service users.




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Once developed, you will need to develop your services in line with these pathways and adapt them to reflect local circumstances.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Williams", with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Paul Williams

Cc Distribution List

Chief Executives	Local Health Boards
Chief Executive	Public Health Wales NHS Trust
Chief Executive	Velindre NHS Trust
Chief Executive	Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Director	Welsh Local Government Association
Postgraduate Dental Dean	Cardiff University School of Postgraduate Medical & Dental Education
Dean	University of Glamorgan
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Director	Welsh Pharmaceutical Quality Assurance
Children's Commissioner	Children's Commission
Patch Managers	Business Service Centres
Dr Chris Jones	Welsh Assembly Government
<u>Members</u>	<u>Task and Finish Group on CFS/ME</u>
Dr Sarah Watkins	Welsh Assembly Government
Dr Jane Ludlow	Welsh Assembly Government
Ann Noyes	Welsh Assembly Government
Shona Sullivan	Medical Director Representative Cwm Taf LHB
Carol Shillabeer	Nursing Director Representative Powys LHB
Jan Smith	Therapies Director Representative Aneurin Bevan LHB
Paul Hollard	Cardiff and Vale LHB
Nigel Monaghan	Public Health Wales