

Edwina Hart MBE OStJ AM
Y Gweinidog dros Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services

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Your ref: EH/ML/027/10



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

To: Chairs of Local Health Boards

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8 June 2010

Dear Chair

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

The management of chronic diseases is a high priority for the NHS in Wales, which is required to put appropriate measures in place to ensure prompt diagnosis and initiation of appropriate treatment, care and support is provided in the right setting by the right professional.

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.

I set up a Task & Finish Group to look at recommending a care pathway for CFS/ME in Wales and advise me on how existing services could develop and improve to comply with the proposed care pathway. Attached is the Group's report along with its recommendations, all of which I accept.

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 implement the recommendation on developing services in line with the care pathway with immediate effect.

Paul Williams, Chief Executive of NHS Wales will be commissioning Informing Healthcare to develop a Welsh status care pathway for CFS/ME and one for Fibromyalgia in consultation with clinicians and service users. Once developed, you will need to develop your services in line with these pathways and adapt them to reflect local circumstances.

Paul Williams will also be writing to your Chief Executives in similar terms to this letter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Williams', is located in the lower-left quadrant of the page. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small mark at the end.