



<b>Agenda Item</b>
4.2

**Quality Safety and Outcomes Sub-Committee**

**Welsh Kidney Network**

<b>Dyddiad y Cyfarfod / Date of Meeting</b>	27/04/2026
<b>Statws Cyhoeddi / Publication Status</b>	Open/ Public
	Not Applicable
<b>Awdur yr Adroddiad / Report Author</b>	WKN Quality and Patient Safety Lead WKN Head of Commissioning
<b>Cyflwynydd yr Adroddiad / Report Presenter</b>	WKN Quality and Patient Safety Lead
<b>Noddwr yr Adroddiad / Report Sponsor</b>	Director of Commissioning for Specialised Services

<b>Pwrpas yr Adroddiad / Report Purpose</b>	For Assurance Choose an item.
---	----------------------------------

<b>Engagement (internal/external) undertaken to date (including receipt/consideration at Committee/Group)</b>		
<b>Committee / Group / Individuals</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
N/A	Click or tap to enter a date.	Choose an item.

## 1. SITUATION/BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to provide a briefing on the current Quality Patient Safety issues within the services that are commissioned by the Welsh Kidney Network (WKN) across Wales.

The WKN is a vehicle through which specialised kidney services are planned and developed on an all-Wales basis in an efficient, economical and integrated manner and provides a single decision-making framework with clear remit, responsibility and accountability.

The WKN continues to work with the Regions to develop and monitor KPI's using real time Welsh data reporting, this has been enabled by the production of audit dashboards for commissioned areas. The WKN also incorporates the National published reports from the relevant UK audit organisations into this work. Collaboration work also continues with the UK Kidney Association (UKKA) with continued representation on the UKKA Patient Safety Group.

## 2. SPECIFIC MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

### 2.1 New Incidents for Reporting

There is one new incident for this reporting period, that is also referenced within the Incidents and Concerns Report; Agenda Item 4.6.

<b>Provider organisation</b>	<b>Incident reference and date</b>	<b>Reported into JCC</b>
Cardiff & Vale University Health Board	ID-81970 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	26 <sup>th</sup> March 2026

#### Brief description

A patient was cared for on a tertiary ward with limited isolation capacity, during a period where other patients were identified with Oxa-48 E. coli. He was subsequently readmitted and died shortly afterwards. The Oxa-48 outbreak was managed via the usual IP&C process chaired by the Executive Director of Nursing, it was NRI reported (ID80625) and subsequently closed. We have since received the cause of death for this patient which relates to the outbreak and so after discussion with NHS P&I, is being reported as a separate NRI. The report has been opened and closed on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

### 2.2 Closed Incidents

There are no closed incidents for this reporting period.

### **3. KEY RISKS**

#### **3.1 Risk Register**

The risk register for the WKN is reviewed through:

- Meetings between the regional providers and the WKN.
- The Welsh Kidney Network, Quality Patient and Safety (QPS) performance assurance meeting.
- Welsh Kidney Network Senior Leadership Group.
- Specialised Services Commissioning Team meeting.
- Welsh Kidney Network meeting.

There are in total eight risks on the current Welsh Kidney Network Commissioning risk register, with movement of one reduced risk and one new risk compared to the last reporting period.

##### **3.1.1 Escalated risks**

No escalated risks in this reporting period.

##### **3.1.2 Reduced risks**

There is one reduced risk in this reporting period.

Provider organisation Cardiff & Vale University Health Board

WKN 25 – Service Sustainability of the National Transplant Programme in Wales.  
Risk rating of 15 (C5xL3) reduced to Risk Rating of 10 (C5xL2)

This risk was an emerging risk within the last reporting period and did not form part of the NWJCC Operational Risk Register. There is an NRI associated to this risk with ongoing meetings, however upon assessment through provider meetings the WKN has a level of assurance that the provider has mitigated the risk through the appointment of Surgeons on a substantive and locum basis. The outstanding actions as part of the action plan are:

- An escalation protocol, continuity plan which included a mutual aid agreement with a NHS England provider

The risk will be continually monitored though the provider WKN regional meetings, alongside continued attendance at NRI meetings.

##### **3.1.3 Closed risks**

There are no closed risks in this reporting period.

##### **3.1.4 New risks**

There is one new risk in this reporting period;

Provider organisation Cardiff & Vale University Health Board.

WKN 26 – Reliability and continuity of the dialysis water supply within the Inpatient Dialysis service at University Hospital Wales

The risk rating is currently at 9 (C3xL3)

If....Cardiff & Vale UHB does not proceed to implement an appropriate business continuity plan for the supply and planned, preventative maintenance agreements for the Dialysis Water Plant supporting the commissioned service areas of David Thomas Unit (DTU), B5 and T5 located within University Hospital Wales (UHW).

Then.....there will be a risk of disruption to the current commissioned services within UHW.

Resulting...

- Dialysing patients in in-appropriate medical areas within UHW, which will have an impact on patient care and outcomes
- The Service not fulfilling their commissioning obligations

Provider risk indicator Nephrology & Transplant/2025-2601.

To mitigate the risk the WKN will seek assurance that there are sufficient mitigating actions in place to minimise the disruption to patient care within UHW and that the CVUHB provider will be an appropriate contract in place for planned, preventative maintenance for the Dialysis Water Supply for the Commissioned Services.

### **3.1.3 Risks above 15**

There is one risk above 15 and appears on the NWJCC Organisational Risk Register:

JCC 65, WKN 18 – Renal Dialysis Capacity across Wales, risk rating 16.

If...the number of patients requiring dialysis continues to grow annually at a rate of 3–4% (or higher based on some projections).

Then...the demand will exceed current commissioned capacity across Wales for both unit-based and home dialysis, and there will be delays or limits on the number of patients accessing home dialysis, as the growing demand exceeds the capacity of the nursing workforce to provide timely training and ongoing monitoring.

Resulting in...

- The need to commission additional capacity, at financial risk to the NWJCC, to avoid population harm.
- Increased pressure on the commissioned NEPTS service to transport a greater number of patients to and from dialysis session 3 times per week at a financial risk to the NWJCC.

To mitigate the risk the WKN have introduced improvements within the Prevention pathway for Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD). Additional investment, through securing Value in Healthcare monies, has increased the number of patients receiving a transplant and who are on a home dialysis modality. Funding has been allocated for additional dialysis stations in units, within BCUHB (Welshpool) and SBUHB (Bridgend and impending Neath Port Talbot).

The WKN will undertake a deep dive review to include projecting the inflationary costs requirement and projected growth for 2026/27 with subsequent report outlining recommendations and next steps to deliver system value and improve efficiency and sustainability. This will be presented to the NWJCC during August 2026.

#### **4. ADDITIONAL TEAM HIGHLIGHTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

##### **4.1 Recruitment**

After a rigorous recruitment process the WKN Lead Nurse post has been appointed into, with the successful candidate starting in the role from March 2026, bringing a wealth of experience within Dialysis Services and who has recently carried out a study into the reasons why some patients decline a transplant despite being medically suitable. The results were published as part of their PhD.

In addition, the WKN has recruited a Commissioning Support Officer. The successful applicant joins the team from within the NWJCC and brings substantial experience as a skilled administrator, further strengthening the Network's commissioning and operational support capacity.

##### **4.2 Response to NHS England Service Specification**

In March 2026, the WKN was asked to provide feedback on a proposed consolidated renal service specification developed by NHS England. The proposal brings together six existing service specifications into a single, end-to-end renal pathway aligned with national transformation priorities, with the aim of improving outcomes, reducing variation, and shifting care towards earlier intervention, home therapies, and transplantation. Stakeholder views were sought on the draft specification, associated equalities assessment, and proposed quality indicators.

The Welsh Kidney Network reviewed the consultation questions set out in NHS England's feedback form, gathered views from its clinical leadership team, and submitted a single consolidated response on behalf of the Network.

#### **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Quality Safety and Outcomes Sub Committee is asked to:

- **Note** the report; and
- Receive the report as **assurance**.

## Strategic and Regulatory Assessment

Objectives / Strategy	
<b>Dolen i Amcan (au) Strategol CBC / Link to JCC Strategic Objectives(s)</b>	Ensure Quality
<b>Dolen i Ddeddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol – Nodau Llesiant / Link to Wellbeing of Future Generations Act – Wellbeing Goals</b> <a href="#">150623-guide-to-the-fg-act-en.pdf</a> <a href="#">(futuregenerations.wales)</a>	A Healthier Wales
	If more than one applies please list below:
<b>Dolen i Hwyluswyr Ansawdd</b> <i>(Canllawiau Statudol Dyletswydd Ansawdd (llyw.cymru)) /</i> <b>Link to Enablers of Quality</b> <a href="#">(Duty of Quality Statutory Guidance (gov.wales))</a>	Whole-systems Perspective
	If more than one applies please list below:
<b>Dolen i Feysydd Ansawdd</b> <i>(Canllawiau Statudol Dyletswydd Ansawdd (llyw.cymru)) /</i> <b>Link to Domains of Quality</b> <a href="#">(Duty of Quality Statutory Guidance (gov.wales))</a>	Safe
	If more than one applies please list below:
<b>Effaith Amgylcheddol/ Cynaliadwyedd (5R) / Environmental /Sustainability Impact (5Rs)</b>	No - Not Applicable
	If more than one applies please list below:

Impact Assessment	
<b>Ansawdd</b>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<p><i>Ydych chi wedi ymgymryd â Sgrinio Asesiad o'r Effaith ar Ansawdd? /</i></p> <p><b>Quality</b> <i>Have you undertaken a Quality Impact Assessment Screening?</i></p>	Outcome:	If no, please include rationale below:
<p><b>Cydraddoldeb</b> <i>Ydych chi wedi ymgymryd â Sgrinio Asesiad o'r Effaith ar Gydraddoldeb? /</i></p> <p><b>Equality</b> <i>Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment Screening?</i></p>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Outcome:	If no, please include rationale below:
<b>Cyfreithiol / Legal</b>	There are no specific legal implications related to the activity outlined in this report.	
<b>Enw da / Reputational</b>	There is no direct impact on the reputation of the Joint Committee as a result of the activity outlined in this report.	
<b>Effaith Adnoddau</b> <i>(Pobl / Ariannol) /</i> <b>Resource Impact</b> <i>(People / Financial)</i>	There is no direct impact on resources as a result of the activity outlined in this report.	

## Acronyms

<b>Acronyms / Glossary of Terms</b>	
AV	Arteriovenous (Fistula)
BCUHB	Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
CKD	Chronic Kidney Disease
CVUHB	Cardiff & Vale University Health Board
KPIs	Key Performance Indicators
NEPTS	Non-Emergency Patient Transport Service
NRI	National Reportable Incidents
NWJCC	NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee
QPS	Quality Patient and Safety
SBUHB	Swansea Bay University Health Board
UHW	University Hospital Wales
UKKA	UK Kidney Association
WKN	Welsh Kidney Network