

Agenda Item

2.1

Quality Safety and Outcomes Sub-Committee

Welsh Kidney Network

Dyddiad y Cyfarfod / Date of Meeting	04/08/2025
Statws Cyhoeddi / Publication Status	Open/ Public
	Not Applicable
Awdur yr Adroddiad / Report Author	WKN Quality and Patient Safety Lead WKN Lead Nurse WKN Deputy Network Manager
Cyflwynydd yr Adroddiad / Report Presenter	WKN QPS Lead / Lead Nurse
Noddwr yr Adroddiad / Report Sponsor	Melanie Wilkey, Director of Commissioning for Specialised Services

Pwrpas yr Adroddiad / Report Purpose	For Noting Choose an item.
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Engagement (internal/external) undertaken to date (including receipt/consideration at Committee/Group)		
Committee / Group / Individuals	Date	Outcome
	Click or tap to enter a date.	Choose an item.

Acronyms / Glossary of Terms	
CKD	Chronic Kidney Disease
CPD	Continuing Professional Development
CPO	Carbapenemase Producing Organism
CT	Computed Tomography

CVUHB	Cardiff & Vale University Health Board
DHCW	Digital Health Care Wales
EMIS	Education Management Information System
GMS	General Medical Service
HARP	Healthcare Associated Infection & Antimicrobial Resistance Programme
HEOR	Health Economics and Outcomes Research LTD
IMTP	Integrated Medium-Term Plan
ISP	Independent Service Provider
KPIs	Key Performance Indicators
NHS BT	NHS Blood & Transplant
NRI	National Reportable Incidents
NWJCC	NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee
ODT	Organ Donation & Transplantation
UKKA	UK Kidney Association
WAST	Welsh Ambulance Services University NHS Trust
WKN	Welsh Kidney Network

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 key performance indicators (KPIs) 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 with continued representation on the UK Kidney Association (UKKA) Patient Safety Group, this has included a soon to be published document, which provides guidance on the management of behaviour that challenge dialysis services.

Work has also started on the National Kidney Conference, which is an opportunity for kidney care services throughout Wales to spread and share good practice to facilitate improvements in patient care and also highlight and discuss challenges to regional services.

2. SPECIFIC MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

2.1 New Incidents for Reporting

The following table provides an overview of new incidents reported, within the reporting period, to the WKN:

Incident date and reference	Reported to JCC	Brief Description
National Reported Incidents (NRI) INC 17/05/2025 89158	29/05/2025	A patient with extensive peripheral vascular disease underwent her fifth renal transplant. The patient complained of pain post operatively, but clinical findings initially didn't suggest vascular compromise, but limb ischaemia developed overnight requiring revascularisation the next day and subsequent above knee amputation due to non-viable tissue. Some concerns on the reporting of a computed tomography (CT) scan taken post-operatively and the use of systemic heparin have been raised and under review for fact-finding.
NRI INC 15/06/2025 90695	19/06/2025	A data quality issue has been identified affecting transplant referral records across several centres, including Cardiff and the Vale University Health Board (CVUHB). Due to variations in how referral information was submitted-particularly where automated data flows from renal Information Technology (IT) systems were used – key clinical details such as dialysis status may not have been consistently captured in national transplant systems. This has the potential implications for patient prioritisation under the 2019 National Health Service Blood and Transplantation (NHSBT) allocation policy, which awards additional points for time on dialysis. Collaborative work is now underway with NHSBT/Organ Donation and Transplantation (ODT) to understand the scale of the issue and ensure affected patients are identified and appropriately supported. Nineteen patients on current waiting list appear to have not been given sufficient time credit on the waiting list. A small number of patients were being given too much time credit on the waiting list. A larger number of patients were not correctly coded as a) being on or off dialysis b) being diabetic or not. This may have impacted the type of kidney offers they may have received.

Following the NRI INC25-02-04 Carbapenemase Producing Organism (CPO) outbreak within Cardiff and the Vale University Health Board, the WKN has continued national discussions with Healthcare Associated Infection & Antimicrobial Resistance Programme (HARP) and a '*Guidance and Management of CPO*' document has been produced in an initial draft format to standardise the screening and management of unit dialysis patients throughout Wales. The aim is to finalise and approve this guidance as quickly as possible because of the impact of CPO isolation on patients, dialysis capacity and the Welsh Ambulance Services University NHS Trust (WAST) service.

3. KEY RISKS

3.1 Risk Register

The Risk Register for the WKN is regularly reviewed through the following WKN groups:

- WKN Regional meetings with the three Welsh providers; Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB), Cardiff & Vale University Health Board (CVUHB), Swansea Bay University Health Board (SBUHB)
- WKN Quality Patient and Safety Performance Assurance meetings;
- WKN Senior Leadership meetings; and
- The WKN Board.

The WKN currently holds seven risks on the Commissioning Risk Register. Within this reporting period one additional risk has been added to the WKN Risk Register:

- WKN 23 – Service Sustainability for Kidney Services in North Wales. The risk rating is currently 12 (Moderate risk).
- Of the 7 risks, one is >15 (currently 16) and therefore sits on the NWJCC Risk Register Risk Ref 65 (WKN 18). Kidney Dialysis capacity across Wales. This risk has been included within NWJCC IMTP submission for 2025/2026 covering growth including the Independent Service Providers (ISPs). The IMTP resulted in a 1.77% uplift for services, lower than the figure requested therefore the risk remains the same.

Controls in place include Value in Health Care funding, which has been secured to increase the number of transplant and home dialysis patients. Changes to the All Wales Community Healthcare Pathways for Chronic Kidney Disease agreed and deployed (medium to long term effect), regional actions plans have been developed for increasing patient numbers for home dialysis. Increased unit dialysis capacity includes additional investment into Welshpool (operated by BCUHB) and a Dialysis Unit in Bridgend with twenty-one stations (operated by SBUHB).

Monitoring is through Regional meetings and the WKN commissioning performance dashboard.

3.2 Action Plan

National Primary Care Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) optimisation project approved as a mandatory component of the new General Medical Service (GMS) contract for all GP practices in Wales £4.5m budget. Educational webinar to promote project is planned for September 2025 supported by regional workshops. Target metrics have been developed by Digital Health Care Wales (DHCW) and Education Management Information System (EMIS) searches:

- CKD e-learning module for primary care focusing on prevention, screening and optimisation for early CKD – Continuing Professional Development (CPD)-approved is under construction with Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW).
- Community Cardiorenal clinic pilot being developed in SBUHB - start date to be confirmed.
- Commission a distinct piece of work on Demand and Capacity Modelling, to develop a model of future activity/demand, and responding capacity, in order to inform future growth predictions which will be the basis of:
 - a) the Welsh Kidney Network’s commissioning intentions
 - b) the investment profile of the Welsh Kidney Network over the timescale set.

Health Economics and Outcomes Research LTD (HEOR) have been commissioned to deliver on this work.

4. ASSESSMENT

Objectives / Strategy	
Dolen i Amcan (au) Strategol CBC / Link to JCC Strategic Objectives(s)	Ensure Quality
Dolen i Ddeddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol – Nodau Llesiant / Link to Wellbeing of Future Generations Act – Wellbeing Goals 150623-guide-to-the-fg-act-en.pdf (futuregenerations.wales)	A Healthier Wales
	If more than one applies please list below:
Dolen i Hwyluswyr Ansawdd <i>(Canllawiau Statudol Dyletswydd Ansawdd (llyw.cymru)) /</i> Link to Enablers of Quality	Whole-systems Perspective
	If more than one applies please list below:

(Duty of Quality Statutory Guidance (gov.wales))	
Dolen i Feysydd Ansawdd (Canllawiau Statudol Dyletswydd Ansawdd (llyw.cymru)) / Link to Domains of Quality (Duty of Quality Statutory Guidance (gov.wales))	Safe
	If more than one applies please list below:
Effaith Amgylcheddol/ Cynaliadwyedd (5R) / Environmental /Sustainability Impact (5Rs)	No - Not Applicable
	If more than one applies please list below:

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

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Quality Safety and Outcomes Sub Committee is asked to:

- **Note** the report.