

Agenda Item

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Quality Safety and Outcomes Sub-Committee
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Welsh Kidney Network

Dyddiad y Cyfarfod / Date of Meeting	06/10/2025
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
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
CVUHB	Cardiff & Vale University Health Board

DHCW	Digital Health Care Wales
EMIS	Education Management Information System
EWN	Early Warning Notifications
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 Service 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 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 with continued representation on the UKKA Patient Safety Group.

Of note the National Kidney Conference took place last week in Llandrindod Wells on Friday 3rd of October and Saturday the 4th October. This was 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

There are no new NRI's for this reporting period.

Following the NRI INC25-02-04 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 WAST service. Work continues awaiting Public Health Wales approval on screening and management documentation. WAST has started implementing the principles laid out in the document. Work will then commence on national bilingual patient information in relation to screening of patients.

The NRI in relation to the issues with the transmission and recording of data between CAV Nephrology & Transplant (CAV N&T), Welsh Transplantation and Immunogenetics Laboratory (WTAI) and NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) for kidney and pancreas transplant referrals continues to be investigated. Further meetings are planned between CAV N&T, NHSBT and WKN/JCC. The number of patients directly affected re waitlisting remains at 18. Each case is being investigated by NHSBT to assess whether there were missed transplant offers as a result of the data issues. We have been told this takes a considerable time in each case. An SOP has been agreed between all parties which prevents the same issues happening again. Ongoing work is being undertaken to understand how the issues developed and on a standardised regular audit of data held by NHSBT. Work has also been completed on a national document to share incidents, action plans and learning from them. A pilot document has been sent out to the regions using a previous NRI. The document has space to inform the regions of an incident and then will be updated when the action plan has been received and re-circulated with the learning and good practice which has evolved from the patient safety incident. This should ensure good communication of patient safety information throughout Wales to prevent further incidents and also share learning and reduce the likelihood of similar incidents in other regions.

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.

There are in total six risks on the current Welsh Kidney Network Commissioning risk register, with movement of 2 closed risks and 1 new risk compared to the last reporting period.

3.1.1 Closed risks

There are two closed risks in this reporting period:

- WKN 14 – Inflationary levels within ISP contracts. Risk reduced from 12 to 6.

The rationale for closure of this risk is that funding for 2025/26 has been agreed with a 1.77% uplift to the Providers LTA’s which will cover WKN commissioned areas. Improved Commissioner visibility with regards to contract negotiations and/or variations which require upfront authorisation will also take place to ensure contract optimisation and financial control.

- WKN 16 – Removal of BCUHB funding for 6-day transport service. Risk reduced from 12 to 4.

The rationale for closure of the risk is that BCUHB is funding the existing service for 2025/26 which will form part of the BCUHB IMTP development.

3.1.2 New risks

There is one new risk in this reporting period:

- WKN 24 – Provider organisations holding/freezing vacancies with the commissioned services of the Welsh Kidney Network.

If – there is no timely release of posts within the commissioned services of the Welsh Kidney Network

Then – services will not meet the commissioning policies and services specifications of the Welsh Kidney Network

Resulting in:

- Non-compliance with commissioning policies and service specifications
- Inability to meet the safe staffing levels set out in the Nursing Staffing Levels (Wales) Act 2016
- Increase risk of patient harm due to inappropriate staff levels
- Inequality for Welsh Kidney patients due to variation of services provision and access
- Inability to reduce the demand of patients requiring unit dialysis in Wales (currently JCC Risk 65 (WKN18) risk level 16)
- Impact to supporting the delivery of transplantation a key strategic area for WKN

Controls in place	Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk documented in the regional provider risk registers and monitored through the HB’s 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of vacancies on hold/freeze to be shared with the WKN to include detail of impact on service, this will

<p>Governance structure, including HB's which the regions provide cover</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk reported through the Commissioning Risk Register 	<p>include the service impact to regional activity</p>
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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)) / Link to Enablers of Quality</i> (Duty of Quality Statutory Guidance (gov.wales))	Whole-systems Perspective
	If more than one applies please list below:
Dolen i Feysydd Ansawdd <i>(Canllawiau Statudol Dyletswydd Ansawdd (llyw.cymru)) / Link to Domains of Quality</i> (Duty of Quality Statutory Guidance (gov.wales))	Safe
	If more than one applies please list below:
Effaith Amgylcheddol/ Cynaliadwyedd (5R) /	No - Not Applicable
	If more than one applies please list below:

Environmental /Sustainability Impact (5Rs)	
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Impact Assessment		
Ansawdd <i>Ydych chi wedi ymgymryd â Sgrinio Asesiad o'r Effaith ar Ansawdd? /</i> Quality <i>Have you undertaken a Quality Impact Assessment Screening?</i>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Outcome:	If no, please include rationale below:
Cydraddoldeb <i>Ydych chi wedi ymgymryd â Sgrinio Asesiad o'r Effaith ar Gydraddoldeb? /</i> Equality <i>Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment Screening?</i>	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 <i>(Pobl /Ariannol) /</i> Resource Impact <i>(People / Financial)</i>	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.