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BMA

Cymru Wales

Eluned Morgan MS
Minister for Health and Social Services
Welsh Government
By email only

10 September 2021

Concerns re: performance of unscheduled care system

Dear Minister,

We previously brought to the attention of your predecessor, Mr Vaughan Gething MS, our concerns regarding the serious delays in urgent conveyance of patients to hospital, with specific regard to the availability of ambulances.

This resulted in the institution of the Ministerial Task Force on Ambulance Availability, which we understand is ongoing.

However, within the last month or so the situation has now escalated to a point where the Welsh Ambulance Service are having to refuse to attend emergency requests from the public & clinicians alike. We are sure you will agree with us that this is extremely concerning and cannot continue.

BMA Cymru Wales members, Local Medical Committee constituents and colleagues have reported to us specific examples of life-threatening emergencies that often require alternative urgent transport to hospital or treatment in inappropriate settings due to the inability of the ambulance service to cope with increasing pressures.

We recognise that this is a symptom of a more deep seated problem, which is the inability to manage the 'flow' of patients through the whole Health and Social Care system, from front door admission to discharge back to the community setting.

Cyfarwyddwr Cenedlaethol (Cymru)/National director (Wales):

Rachel Podolak

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The situation is complex and multifaceted, with problems and solutions relating to workforce, demand management, ambulance offloading & 'Red Release', flow and discharge into the community social care settings.

We cannot ignore the effect of the gradual increase in COVID admissions, particularly in the young and unvaccinated, which is starting to impact upon secondary care delivery and further exacerbate the issues with patient flow.

At a time when the public discussion has moved on to the 'Restart and Recovery' of the NHS in Wales, we are instead facing a significant crisis of healthcare delivery.

The situation is intolerable, and we fear that without immediate recourse and Ministerial directive to Chief Executives of both Health & Social Services there will be avoidable harm to patients and the NHS in Wales as a whole. The transference of risk to patients, families and clinicians in the community is unacceptable and solutions need to be implemented before lives are lost.

We the undersigned, as the Welsh General Practitioners Committee, Welsh Consultants Committee, and all Welsh Local Medical Committees demand that this matter is addressed urgently.

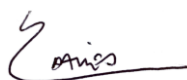
Yours sincerely



Dr Phil White
Chair, General Practitioners Committee Wales



Dr Phil Banfield
Chair, Welsh Consultants Committee



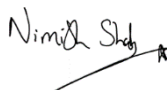
Dr Steve Davies
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Chair, Morgannwg LMC
cc. Dr Nimish Shah,
Medical Secretary



Dr Sara Bodey
Chair, North Wales LMC