

Health and Social Care Committee

Inquiry into the implementation of the National Service Framework for diabetes in Wales
and its future direction

DB 9 - ABPI



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Cymru | Wales

Response to the National Assembly for
Wales' Health and Social Care Committee
inquiry into the implementation of the
National Service Framework for Diabetes
in Wales and its future direction

September 2012

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Who We Are:

The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) has 150 members including more than 50 research-based pharmaceutical companies operating in the United Kingdom. We represent innovative research-based biopharmaceutical companies, both large and small, leading an exciting new era of biosciences in the UK.

Our industry, a major contributor to the economy of the UK, brings life-saving and life-enhancing medicines to patients. Our members supply 80 per cent of all medicines used by the NHS, and are researching and developing over two-thirds of the current medicines pipeline, ensuring that the UK remains at the forefront of helping patients prevent and overcome diseases. Working with our Research Affiliate Members, leaders in pharmaceutical R&D, is vital in promoting the UK as a destination of choice for international life sciences investment.

ABPI Cymru Wales was established in 2003 in recognition of the evolving distinctiveness of the health agenda in Wales. We enable the collaborative working of ABPI members with a declared interest in Wales. ABPI Cymru Wales currently has an active membership of over 25 ABPI member companies.

Making Comments Public

We understand that responses to consultations may be made public – on the internet or in a report. We are happy for any comments to be attributed to the ABPI Cymru Wales Industry Group.

Contact Us:

If we can provide any further information / clarification on our response to the consultation, please contact:

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Consultation Response

This response has been drafted in consultation with the ABPI Cymru Wales Industry Group CVD Sub-Group.

We have formed the basis of this response on the public and NHS consultation documents provided on your website. We hope this is helpful. We have aimed to provide a general commentary on the implementation and progress made to date with the National Service Framework (NSF) as well as the challenges of delivery due to changes during the time. We would also like to acknowledge concerns at the lack of reference to medicines, which are an essential element of care and management of diabetes but which receive no attention in this document.

Health Promotion and Prevention

We agree that it is fundamentally important to have clear processes in place for early diagnosis and management of diabetes within Wales.

The pharmaceutical industry has a proven track record of working alongside NHS organisations across the UK in the delivery of health promotion in this area. We would be happy to share such work with NHS Wales. There have also been a number of campaigns run specifically through Community Pharmacy Wales which have focussed on identifying the undiagnosed.

Short term investment in early detection, diagnosis and good management will lead not only to good practice, but also long term savings resultant from the avoidance of complications associated with diabetes and late identification of the disease.

Establish Education Steering Group and Independent Training for Wales

There have been some moves towards this ambition in recent times. The group and independent training have been prioritised by the All Wales Diabetes Forum, which will hopefully produce a prioritised and clear process for primary care to follow for newly diagnosed patients with diabetes from 2013.

The pharmaceutical industry has a history of providing education and independent training for health care professionals across the UK. We would be happy to share such work with NHS Wales.

We are also supportive, via our member companies, of the various diabetes diploma courses that have been established and running for a number of years throughout Wales for both General Practitioners and nurses.

Outcome Measures

There has been some degree of measurement of diabetes management and complications through the national diabetes audit. However, not all stakeholders have completed the audit and therefore the results cannot be classed as a complete picture of the outcomes.

More recently, the National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) have introduced the diabetes quality standards which we believe need to be fully adopted across Wales.



Establishment of Diabetes Advisory Groups

These were initially set up under the banner of LDSAG's and have more recently become known as DPDG's (Diabetes Planning and Delivery Groups). We welcome the inclusivity of group membership - incorporating and engaging all relevant stakeholders of diabetes management and care.

General Comments

There are some areas of Wales where examples of best practice are clearly established and proven. However, these services are not equally available to patients throughout Wales.

There have been fundamental changes to the structure of NHS Wales during the lifetime of the NSF. Regardless, the ideals of the NSF appear to remain within the ethos of the new Health Boards, with focus and attention on multi-disciplinary teams managing the care of the patient. However, there remains a lack of equity across Wales, with areas providing different levels of care and health outcomes.

The scale of the challenge in Wales should not be underestimated, with high, recorded prevalence of diabetes and associated co-morbidities across the country, as well as high estimations of undiagnosed populations. Early diagnosis, preventative treatment and multi-disciplinary team support of the patients will undoubtedly mean increased financial pressure in the short-term. However, leaving these patients undiagnosed until further into their condition will result in a heavier cost burden to NHS Wales in managing the complications that will develop.

The NSF recognises that for implementation to be successful there are certain required criteria:

- Person-centred
- Developed in partnership
- Equitable
- Integrated
- Targeted

We strongly support these principles and would like to re-emphasise the role and contribution that the pharmaceutical industry makes in helping to develop and deliver aspects of good diabetes care and management.

The NSF set out ambitious standards for the improvement of services for people living with diabetes in Wales. We believe that they are all still relevant and subsequent policies published reinforce the NSF content. The progress to achieve all 12 standards is variable across Wales and we would encourage the Welsh Government and Health Boards to work collectively with all stakeholders, including the pharmaceutical industry, to achieve the ambitions of the NSF. Collaboration, within strictly controlled regulation and governance arrangements, can provide benefits for all those involved, most importantly patients with diabetes and their families in Wales.