

Bay Watch

19 May 2009



About Bay Watch

Bay Watch is a weekly political briefing for Welsh NHS Confederation members that is focused on health issues and policies being discussed and debated in the National Assembly for Wales.

If you have any queries about this publication, please contact jonathan.davies@welshconfed.org

Last Week at the Assembly

Community Health Councils

In a statement, the Health Minister outlined responses to the consultation on CHCs. The responses revealed no real consensus on how CHCs should be structured, although the principle of strengthening the role of CHCs was widely supported. The Minister asked the CHCs to develop proposals for joint working and demonstrate that they can work together. She will ask all CHCs to come forward, by the end of July, with proposals for joint working that will be operational by October. The Minister added: "It will now be up to CHCs to develop the model that they feel will work in their area."

In response, several AMs expressed concern on the tight timeframe.

Read the discussion in full here:
<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=129044&ds=5/2009#4>

Swine Flu

The Health Minister gave an update on the situation with regards to swine flu, updating members that:

- Confirmed cases are still expected in Wales.

- Stockpiles of anti-viral drugs are being increased, with the aim of covering 80 per cent of the population. Stores of antibiotics are being increased to provide courses of treatment for 30 per cent of the population.
- The expiry dates for Tamiflu and Relenza range from May 2010 to December 2013.
- An additional 227 million surgical face masks and 34 million respirators have been ordered on a UK basis.
- British scientists have identified the genetic fingerprint of the virus's European strain.

Read the statement in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=129377&ds=5/2009#dat>

Press releases issued

NHS waiting times for diagnostic tests continue to fall
<http://new.wales.gov.uk/news/topic/health/2009/090513nhswaitingtimes/?lang=en>

Awards to highlight Military Health Heroes
<http://new.wales.gov.uk/news/topic/health/2009/090514militaryhealthheroes/?lang=en>

This Week at the Assembly

In plenary this week

Tuesday

The First Minister will be asked to comment on his priorities for the Welsh Ambulance Service.

See Tuesday's agenda here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=128828&ds=5/2009>

Wednesday

The Health Minister will give the latest news on swine flu.

See Wednesday's agenda here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=129284&ds=5/2009>

Children and Families Measure

Anna Bird, Director of Children and Families for Carmarthenshire Local Health Board, will be giving evidence to the Children and Families Measure Committee on behalf of LHBs in Wales.

See Thursday's agenda here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third1/bus-committees-third-lc2-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=129821&ds=5/2009>

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About the Welsh NHS Confederation

The Welsh NHS Confederation represents the organisations making up the NHS in Wales: trusts and local health boards. We act as an independent voice in the drive for better health and better healthcare through our policy and influencing work, and by supporting members with events, information and training. To find out more about us go to -

www.welshconfed.org