

# Bay Watch

20 July 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](mailto:jonathan.davies@welshconfed.org)

## Last Week at the Assembly

### First Minister's Questions

#### *Swine flu*

Conservative health spokesperson, Andrew RT Davies, questioned the First Minister on how the additional costs of swine flu would be met. The First Minister said the issue of who pays has been "parked" but he added that it should be the UK Government that pays, because it is an emergency planning issue, which is not devolved. He emphasised that the issue of pay would not inhibit the government from obtaining the supplies.

#### *Junior doctors*

In response to queries on the shortage of middle-grade doctors in Swansea's neurosurgery service, the First Minister said the government was taking a proactive approach to recruiting, and would not be "taking the easy way out" by recruiting from the sub-continent. He added: "We are supplying the doctors; it is up to the hospitals to make sure that they have an adequate proportion of doctors and to cover all the specialties that are needed."

Read the session in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=137609&ds=7/2009#q1>

### Future of tertiary and specialised services

The Health Minister issued a written statement setting out the responses to the consultation on the future of specialised and tertiary services. Respondents supported the establishment of a Joint Committee of the seven LHBs, and agreed that Cwm Taf LHB should act as the host organisation. The Minister confirmed that the Joint Committee would be established from 1st October 2009.

Read the statement in full here:

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/newsitem.cfm?contentid=12571>

### Paying for Care

The Deputy Minister for Social Services, Gwenda Thomas, issued a written statement on the Paying for Care consultation. The Deputy Minister confirmed her plans to work closely with the UK Government in relation to its Green Paper, "Shaping the Future of Care Together". Although social care is a devolved matter, the UK benefits system that impacts on charging for care is not. The Deputy Minister intends to publish a Green Paper for Wales on Paying for Care in the autumn.

There is currently no electronic link to the statement.

## Swine flu

The Health Minister gave an update on swine flu in a written statement. The Minister explained the move from the containment to treatment phase and what changes this would mean for Welsh Assembly Government communications.

Read the statement here:

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/newsitem.cfm?contentid=12576>

[0714occupationalhealth/?lang=en](http://new.wales.gov.uk/news/topic/health/2009/090714occupationalhealth/?lang=en)

More funding to improve dignity and care for older people

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/news/topic/health/2009/090713dignityandcare/?lang=en>

**The National Assembly for Wales is in recess from 17 July to 21 September 2009.**

## Audit Committee

The Audit Committee has published its report, "Protecting NHS Staff from Violence and Aggression". The report says that there has been "very little progress after three and a half years" and calls for greater priority and urgency to be given to violence and aggression against NHS staff.

Read the report in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/cr-ld7605-e.pdf>

## Press releases issued

CMO urges people with flu-like symptoms not to go to accident and emergency (A&E)

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/health/news/symptoms/?lang=en>

No change to swine flu treatment routes in Wales

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/health/protection/communicabledisease/swine/news/treatment/?lang=en>

Health Minister to visit site earmarked for second phase of Children's Hospital

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/news/topic/health/2009/090715hospital/?lang=en>

Plans to improve access to occupational health services in Wales announced

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/news/topic/health/2009/090714occupationalhealth/?lang=en>

THE **WELSH NHS CONFEDERATION**  
CONFFEDERASIWN GIG CYMRU



Unit 3  
Waterton Park  
Bridgend  
CF31 3PH

Tel 0845 33 00 499  
E-mail [info@welshconfed.org](mailto:info@welshconfed.org)

## 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](http://www.welshconfed.org)