

Bay Watch

28 September 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

Swine flu update

The Health Minister gave an update on the swine flu situation in Wales, explaining that the clinical consultation rate for flu fell steadily throughout the summer, but is still higher than usual for this time of year. The Minister said that timing of the second wave is uncertain but one in three people are still expected to become ill over the course of the pandemic.

The Minister also gave an update on:

- revised planning assumptions
- critical care capacity
- plans for a vaccination programme
- public health advertising.

Read the Minister's statement in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=143025&ds=9/2009#5>

This Week at the Assembly

In plenary

Tuesday

The First Minister will be asked to comment on care payments for the elderly and disabled.

See Tuesday's agenda in full here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=142905&ds=9/2009>

Wednesday

Questions to the Health Minister will cover the following topics:

- future role of Llandudno Hospital
- stroke services
- attacks on NHS staff
- co-operation between Local Health Boards and Local Government
- kidney dialysis
- ambulance services
- awareness of type 2 diabetes
- foot care services for older people
- reporting of unsafe staffing levels
- equality of access to NHS services
- workforce planning.

See the full list of questions here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-oral.htm?act=dis&id=141978&ds=10/2009>

Also on Tuesday

The Welsh Conservatives have proposed a debate in which they will call upon the government to improve services for the early detection and treatment of eye conditions.

For more details, please see Wednesday's agenda:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=143405&ds=9/2009>

Equality of Opportunity Committee

The Equality of Opportunity Committee has begun an inquiry into discrimination against people living with HIV by healthcare professionals and providers.

In Tuesday's meeting, they will hear evidence from AIDS Trust Cymru and Body Positive Cheshire and North Wales.

For more information on the inquiry, see the link below:

http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third1/bus-committees-third-eoc-home/bus-committees-third-eoc-inquiry/eoc_3_dhs .htm

Health Committee

The Health Minister will give evidence to the Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee on Wednesday for its inquiry into the use and regulation of sunbeds.

For more details, please see Wednesday's agenda:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third1/bus->

[committees-third-hwlg-home/bus-committees-third-hwlg-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=143824&ds=9/2009](http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees-third-hwlg-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=143824&ds=9/2009)

The committee published its report into community mental health services over the summer. The report is available here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/cr-ld7697>

The committee's inquiry into stroke services continues.

For more information on the work of the committee, see the link below:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third1/bus-committees-third-hwlg-home/business-hwlg-inquiries.htm>

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee will meet on Thursday to receive a briefing from Auditor General, Jeremy Colman, on NHS Direct Wales.

See the Wales Audit Office's report on NHS Direct Wales here:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third1/bus-committees-third-ac-home/bus-committees-third-ac-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=143640&ds=10/2009>

The committee will also discuss the Welsh Assembly Government's responses to reports on violence and aggression against NHS staff, and ambulance services in Wales.

For more information, see Thursday's agenda:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third1/bus-committees-third-ac-home/bus-committees-third-ac-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=143599&ds=10/2009>

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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