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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Bae Abertawe
Swansea Bay University
Health Board

Cadeirydd/Chair: **Emma Woollett**
Prif Weithredwr/Chief Executive: **Mark Hackett**

gofalu am ein gilydd, cydweithio, gwella bob amser
caring for each other, working together, always improving

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg ac yn y Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Dyddiad/Date: 9th April 2021
Ein Cyf / Our Ref: 21-C-025

01639 648363

FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk

[REDACTED]

Corporate Services
Headquarters
1 Talbot Gateway
Baglan
Port Talbot, SA12 7BR

[REDACTED]

I refer to your Freedom of Information Act Request acknowledged by ourselves on 19th March 2021. Your request sought information relating to our formulary process.

1. What is the process for getting a medication/product on the formulary for your region?

Please see attached process.

2. What factors go into your decisions regarding medication and medical products to include in your local formulary? (Such as cost, value proposition, etc.)

Factors included in the managed entry process document attached. This includes a full product evaluation which considers the evidence of efficacy, place in therapy, safety and cost effectiveness. The evaluation also includes considerations for any non-drug costs of including the medication on formulary as well.

3. Can you please provide information regarding medication optimisation in your area? Who performs medication optimisation? Who assists patients in the process of switching medications/products if recommended or if the formulary changes? Is this performed by GPs, pharmacists etc.

Medicines optimisation is included as part of all pharmacists' review of patient's treatment – across both primary and secondary care. Prescribing clinicians also review opportunities to optimise patients' medication treatment when conducting their patient reviews.

If a switch of medication/process is recommended then this is usually carried out by both clinicians and pharmacists. In primary care, depending on the nature of the switch, pharmacists or pharmacy technicians may conduct the switch following



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agreement with the prescribing GP, or alternatively the GP may conduct the switch themselves. A prescribing decision support software is also utilised within GP practices to guide prescribers to cost-effective formulary switches. Within secondary care, opportunities for clinical switches will be reviewed by pharmacy teams in the acute sites and discussed with the clinician.

4. How has COVID-19 affected your area? Has it affected your budgets? Where do you see opportunities for medications/products and medication optimisation in this time of COVID-19?

Covid-19 has had a significant impact on the prescribing practice within both primary and secondary care, and the full impact of this on the prescribing budget is yet to be fully understood. There was a significant impact on primary care prescribing budget during the first wave of Covid-19, and the Pharmacy and Medicines Management team continues to review and scope any new opportunities for medicines optimisation and promotion of cost effective prescribing in the work plan.

I hope this information is helpful. If you require anything further please contact us at FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk.

Under the terms of the Health Board's Freedom of Information policy, individuals seeking access to recorded information held by the Health Board are entitled to request internal review of the handling of their requests. If you would like to complain about the Health Board's handling of your request please contact me directly at the address below or register your complaint via FOIA.Requests@wales.nhs.uk.

If after Internal Review you remain dissatisfied you are also entitled to refer the matter to the information commissioner at the Information Commissioner's Office (Wales), 2nd Floor, Churchill House, Churchill Way, Cardiff, CF10 2HH. Telephone Number: 029 2067 8400.

Yours sincerely



On behalf of

Pam Wenger

Director of Corporate Governance

