



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

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Chief Nursing Officer  
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To: Chief Executive Officers  
Vice Chairs  
Executive Directors of Nursing  
Directors of Primary Care

25 January 2023

Dear Colleagues,

### National Community Nursing Specification

The Programme for Government (June 2021) sets out the ten well-being objectives that the government will use to maximise its contribution to the seven long-term well-being goals and the steps we will take to deliver them. A key objective is to provide effective, high quality and sustainable healthcare through a number of actions including delivering better access to doctors, nurses, dentists, and other health professionals.

During 2021-2022, the National Primary Care Board has overseen a significant piece of work, led by the Strategic Programme for Primary Care, to develop a [National Community Nursing Specification](#). We are delighted to launch this specification, the first of its type in Wales, which is enclosed and it can be found in the [Community Infrastructure Toolkit](#). The specification outlines the minimum requirements of how community nursing services (including district nurses, general practice nurses and specialist nurses) work together and with other members of the multi professional team, to meet the needs of people aged 16 and over. This will;

- **Standardise** care where possible to reduce variation and raise quality
- **Simplify** systems and processes to make people's experience better and nurses working lives easier
- **Promote collaboration** with other nurses and professionals around the person

To help achieve the ambitions of the specification, we set out below some key milestones for 2023-24.

### Key Milestones 2023-24

#### By 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

- Health Boards undertake the [National Community Nursing Specification self- assessment](#) and develop a locally owned action plan which outlines how community nursing services will start to meet the requirements of the National Community Nursing Specification. This should be submitted to Paul Labourne ([paul.labourne@wales.gov.uk](mailto:paul.labourne@wales.gov.uk))
- The self assessment to be shared with the Strategic Programme for Primary Care and health boards to identify any national support required.



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April - May 2023

- Increase end of life care capacity (this is subject to confirmation of funding and will be clarified in February)

By 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023

- Clear supervision offer to District Nurses, Specialist Nurses and General Practice Nurses in Health Board Managed practices, of a **minimum** of one restorative supervision session every six months.

By 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023

- Implementation of a two hour, 72 hour and 10 working day response to referrals, by District Nursing Teams and Community Specialist Nursing Teams.
- Direct referrals to District Nursing Services out of hours from Urgent Care Services including OOH GP, 111 and WAST Clinical Support Desk clinicians and Paramedics where direct referral pathways exist, are in place.
- Implementation of a frailty score across all community nursing services

By 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023

- District Nursing capacity on Saturday and Sunday daytime is at a minimum of 60% of the usual weekday DN capacity
- All Health Boards are able to provide access to overnight District Nursing Services for people

November- December 2023

- Health Boards to refresh self-assessment and identify any actions to be included in subsequent IMTP for 2024

I trust you will do all you can to enable and support the achievement of the above milestones, which will help ensure care provided by community nursing services is safe, effective, person centred, timely, efficient and equitable in line with the [Quality and Safety Framework: Learning and Improving \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales) This in turn will provide benefits to the wider system, including prevention of inappropriate attendances at emergency depts and hospital admissions, timely hospital discharges and retention of community nurses. All of which aligns to the Accelerated Cluster Development Programme and the Six Goals for Urgent & Emergency Care Programme.

Should you have any queries or would like local specific discussions on the implementation of the Community Nursing Specification and the delivery of the milestones, please contact Chiquita Cusens, National Lead Nurse for Primary and Community Care ([chiquita.cusens@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:chiquita.cusens@wales.nhs.uk)).

Yours sincerely



**CHIEF NURSING OFFICER  
NURSE DIRECTOR NHS WALES  
PRIF SWYDDOG NYRSIO  
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**DIRECTOR OF PRIMARY CARE AND  
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CYFARWYDDWR O GOFAL SYLFAENOL  
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