



Mike Hedges MS
Member of the Senedd for Swansea East

16 February 2022

Dear Mike,

I am writing in response to the issues raised during Business Questions on 1 February, in relation to Do Not Attempt Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (DNACPR), on behalf of the COVID bereaved relatives group.

Wales has its own clinical policy for DNACPR for adults, which is updated every two years, most recently in November 2020. The policy's aim is to offer conversations to those close to individuals at the end of life so that the wishes of the person concerned are implemented as far as practicably possible. The updated DNACPR policy revised in 2020 made it clear that consultation must take place with those concerned. The policy can be accessed at:

<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/researchandresources/publications/sharingandinvolvingaclinicalpolicyfordonotattemptcardiopulmonaryresuscitationdnacprforadultsinwales>

The Chief Medical Officer and Chief Nursing Officer for Wales issued a comprehensive letter to all health boards at the start of the pandemic and again in March 2021. These letters made it clear that age, disability or long-term condition should never be a sole reason for issuing a DNACPR order against an individual's wishes. It also emphasised that decisions should be made on an individual and consultative basis with people. It emphasised that it is unacceptable for advance care plans, with or without DNACPR form completion to be applied to groups of people of any description.

The letter was also issued widely to third sector partners and in an easy read format.

Attached is the web link to the letter which also contains links to other relevant information: <https://gov.wales/decisions-do-not-attempt-cardiopulmonary-resuscitation-dnacpr-age-disability-and-long-term>

Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) also emphasised that any consideration of advance care planning must be carried out in partnership with people and their families. This includes any discussion about Do Not Attempt Resuscitation where this is appropriate. CIW issued a [joint statement](#) with Healthcare Inspectorate Wales in April 2020 which emphasised the importance of personalised, compassionate communication as being central to this process.

CIWs' inspections are underpinned by a rights-based approach and are clear that all decisions about people's well-being should always be made on an individual basis. Any concerns that COVID bereaved relatives have can be raised directly with Care Inspectorate Wales at <https://careinspectorate.wales/contact-us/get-in-touch>

Similarly, any concerns that the COVID bereaved relatives group may have regarding healthcare services can be raised directly with Healthcare Inspectorate Wales at <https://hiw.org.uk/provide-feedback-about-healthcare-service>

I hope this information clarifies the current position.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services