



Our ref: WQ89511 & WQ89512

Andrew RT Davies
Member of the Senedd for South Wales Central

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18 April 2024

Dear Andrew,

I am responding to two written questions:

- Will the Minister provide an update on the rollout of the National Optimal Pathway for Vague Symptoms, and how many diagnoses of pancreatic cancer have been detected through this pathway.
- What steps is the Minister taking to increase the number of people with unresectable pancreatic cancer being prescribed pancreatic enzyme replacement therapy.

The Welsh Government's [Quality Statement for Cancer](#) includes a requirement for health boards and trusts to implement the national optimal pathways and services specifications listed in its Annex A. This includes a service specification and pathway for investigating vague symptoms through a Rapid Diagnostic Centre model. The requirement is emphasised in the NHS planning framework, national leadership work underway by the NHS Executive, and two ministerial cancer summits over the past year. This means that there is a clear and understood expectation that health boards and trusts will implement the nationally agreed cancer pathways over time.

All health board populations have access to a Rapid Diagnostic Centre, and as a national programme, this work is currently undergoing evaluation. However, the Welsh Government does not routinely receive data on the number of cases of cancer, or cancer type, diagnosed through Rapid Diagnostic Centres.

The NHS Executive is working with health boards to improve primary care capability to prescribe pancreatic enzyme replacement therapy. This includes educational material for primary care and changes to health board formularies.

Yours sincerely,

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

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol