



Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ83270 & WQ83272

Joel James MS
Member of the Senedd for South Wales Central

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10 September 2021

Dear Joel

Thank you for your recent Written Questions asking me how the Welsh Government are working with GPs to improve how symptoms of ovarian cancer are recognised and increase the number of early referrals. You also asked what consideration I have given to a national symptom awareness campaign for ovarian cancer.

We are committed to improving the care of people with ovarian cancer. The NHS in Wales has agreed a 'nationally optimised pathway' for ovarian cancer and services are reviewed through the cancer peer review programme. The Wales Cancer Network is building on the five-year collaboration between the NHS and Macmillan on the Framework for Cancer Programme that funds lead GPs and nurses to work with their peers in primary care on the recognition, referral and management of people affected by cancer. These pieces of work are part of our broader approach to improving care and outcomes set out in the Quality Statement for Cancer: <https://gov.wales/quality-statement-cancer>

The early detection of cancer is a complex matter that involves a combination of patient awareness, preparedness to act, access to primary care advice, ability to assess, willingness to refer, and timely access to effective diagnostic tests. This is made difficult by the vague and non-specific nature of many cancer symptoms that mimic more common and less serious conditions. The Welsh Government, NHS and third sector have delivered a number of campaigns during the pandemic that encourage people to access services when

they need to. This has included specific activity focused on cancer and referrals for cancer have recovered to pre-pandemic levels.

I hope you find this response helpful.

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