



Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ83319, WQ83320, WQ83321, WQ83322 & WQ83323

Altaf Hussain MS
Member of the Senedd for South Wales West

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20 September 2021

Dear Altaf

Thank you for your recent Written Questions asking me:

- How many blood testing tubes are supplied to NHS Wales each year, and if I could outline if there is a shortfall,
- What discussions I have had with the UK Government over the supply of blood testing tubes,
- What advice the Welsh Government has given to health boards on the use of blood tests, in light of the reported shortage of blood test tubes,
- What information the Welsh Government has requested from health boards on the use of blood testing tubes and
- What alternative arrangements I am considering to address issues with the supply of blood testing tubes?

About 14 million blood collection tubes are supplied to NHS Wales each year. NHS Wales have been managing a UK wide supply issue alongside other UK nations. With support from Welsh Government, NHS Wales are working closely with the supplier and with the NHS Supply Chain, which manages the sourcing of medical supplies across Wales and England, to ensure Wales continue to have sufficient blood collection tubes for people that urgently need blood tests.

The Chief Medical Officer wrote to Health Boards on 10 August to confirm the clinical guidance applicable to manage available supplies. Further guidance for primary care endorsed by Welsh Government was issued on 17 August.

NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership, which lead on procurement in Wales for all Health Boards, and Welsh Government anticipate the measures within these guidance would be sufficient to preserve supplies for those with urgent clinical needs. Officials are working with

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

other UK nations to source clinically suitable alternative products and restore the supply of blood collection tubes as soon as possible.

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