



Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ80413

Adam Price MS
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

23 June 2020

Dear Adam,

I'm writing in response to WQ80413: Will the Minister confirm whether hospital discharge arrangements changed in March 2020 to expedite discharge; and will all relevant information be published?

On 13th March, I announced a [framework of actions](#) within which local health and social care providers could make decisions to enable them to make timely preparations and operate at maximum capacity in anticipation of the expected increase in the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19.

This framework included actions to support patient flow and discharge from hospital, such as:

- Prioritising use of Non-Emergency Patient Transport Services to focus on hospital discharge and ambulance emergency response;
- Expediting discharge of vulnerable patients from acute and community hospitals; and
- Fast tracking placements to care homes by suspending the current protocol which gives the right to a choice of home

The [COVID-19 Hospital Discharge Service Requirements \(Wales\)](#), published on 7th April, and updated on 29th April, further clarified our expectations regarding timely discharge from hospital and implementation of the Discharge to Recover then Assess (D2RA) model for Wales. This guidance places requirements on local health and social care providers to work together to ensure patients are able to be discharged from hospital as soon as it is clinically safe to do so, and to expand the community capacity and reablement services in the local area to support people requiring support around discharge from hospital and subsequent recovery.

The Discharge to Recover then Assess (D2RA) model for Wales is based on evidence that supporting people in this way not only mitigates against potential harm from prolonged hospital stay, but actively supports recovery. This enables people to return to being as

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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.

independent as possible, in the right environment for them. It can also potentially prevent future unnecessary admission to hospital or premature admission to long-term care.

An additional £10m Welsh Government funding has been made available to Regional Partnership Boards to support delivery against these requirements including:

- Maximising independence post COVID-19 admission
- Accelerated scaling up of rapid discharge schemes
- Opening of additional bedded community capacity
- Purchase of equipment to maximise independence and enable the accelerated scaling of Covid-compliant ways of working
- Accelerated scaling of essential community-based services to reduce pressure on primary and secondary care resulting from COVID-19 response

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vaughan Gething AS/MS

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