

Vaughan Gething AC / AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd
Deputy Minister for Health



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Eluned Parrott AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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9 December 2015

Dear

During First Minister and Business Questions on 10 November 2015, you requested an update on the single cancer pathway.

It is my intention to share an interim report on the progress of this pilot with all Assembly Members in Spring. I would like to provide you with a short progress update to reassure you that the work is ongoing.

Last summer, health boards in Wales participated in a pilot to:

- Establish the exact waiting times to first definitive treatment for patients currently on the non-USC pathway.
- To determine the effectiveness and appropriateness of managing all cancer patients on a single 62 day pathway.

The numbers participating in the pilot were small and indicated that there are delays for those on a 31 day pathway between point of suspicion and decision to treat when the current pathway starts. Due to the relatively small numbers captured by the pilot and the experimental nature of the pilot, this data was not published and will be incorporated into phase two of the pilot.

Phase two of the pilot commenced in September when Cwm Taf University Health Board, commenced dual running of the new single cancer pathway alongside the two existing targets. The pilot has advanced slower than I would have liked due to staffing issues and the need to amend the IT tracking system to capture all patients at the point of cancer suspicion. These issues have now been resolved. In order to ensure that we really understand the implications of introducing the new pathway the pilot will continue to run until the end of January 2016.

I will be considering an interim report of the findings in February and will share that with Assembly Members in due course.

Yours sincerely

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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.