



**Agenda Item**

8.1.5

**CTM Health Board**

**All Wales Prior Approval Policy (2025)**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Dyddiad y Cyfarfod /<br/>Date of Meeting</b>                           | 27/11/2025  |
| <b>Statws Cyhoeddi /<br/>Publication Status</b>                           | Open/ Public<br>Not Applicable                              |
| <b>Awdur yr Adroddiad /<br/>Report Author</b>                             | Claire Tynan-Preece, Commissioning Manager                  |
| <b>Cyflwynydd yr Adroddiad /<br/>Report Presenter</b>                     | Sallie Davies, Deputy Medical Director                      |
| <b>Noddwr Gweithredol yr<br/>Adroddiad /<br/>Report Executive Sponsor</b> | Philip Daniels, Interim Executive Director of Public Health |

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| <b>Pwrpas yr Adroddiad /<br/>Report Purpose</b> | For Approval |
|---|--------------|

**Engagement (internal/external) undertaken to date (including receipt/consideration at Committee/Group)**

| <b>Committee / Group /<br/>Individuals</b> | <b>Date</b> | <b>Outcome</b>              |
|--|-------------|-----------------------------|
| All Wales IPFR Policy Implementation Group | July 2025   | Supported                   |
| Head of Commissioning                      | 09/09/2025  | Supported                   |
| Assistant Director of Transformation       | 11/09/2025  | Supported                   |
| Executive Director of Public Health        | 12/09/2025  | Supported                   |
| Quality, Safety & Experience Committee     | 23/09/2025  | Endorsed for Board Approval |

**Acronyms / Glossary of Terms**

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| AWTTC | All Wales Toxicology and Therapeutic Committee |
|-------|--|



|          |  |
|----------|--|
| IPFR     | Individual Patient Funding Request                             |
| IPFR PIG | Individual Patient Funding Request Policy Implementation Group |
| IPFR QAG | Individual Patient Funding Request Quality Assurance Group     |
| PAR      | Prior Approval Request   |
| NWJCC    | New Wales Joint Commissioning Committee                        |
| WHSSC    | Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee                    |

## 1. Situation /Background

- 1.1 The current version of the All Wales Prior Approval (PAR) policy was last reviewed in 2018.
- 1.2 The responsibility for reviewing the All Wales PAR policy rests with the All Wales IPFR Policy Implementation Group (IPFR PIG). Following discussion in 2024, it was agreed to review the PAR policy alongside the review of the All Wales IPFR policy.
- 1.3 This paper provides a summary of the key changes within the updated PAR policy.
- 1.4 Each health board is now required to obtain formal approval to endorse and implement the revised policy.

## 2. Specific Matters for Consideration

### 2.1 All Wales Prior Approval policy

A prior approval request (PAR) is normally defined as a request for a patient to receive routine treatment outside of local services or established contractual arrangements. Such a request will normally fall within one of the following categories: -

- Second opinion
- Lack of local/commissioned service provision/expertise
- Clinical continuity of care (considered on a case-by-case basis)
- Transfer back to the NHS following self-funding in the private sector
- Re-referral following a previous tertiary referral
- Students
- Veterans

### 2.2 Governance arrangements

The NHS Wales IPFR Policy Implementation Group (PIG) brings together representatives from Health Boards, the Joint Commissioning Committee, AWTTTC, and Health Technology Wales to ensure the fair and consistent

application of the Prior Approval (PAR) policy and IPFR Policy across Wales. The group supports decision-making for treatments not routinely provided, promotes best practice, and helps shape national policy. It also works to improve understanding of the IPFR & PAR process, enhance data quality, and inform future commissioning. Through collaboration and stakeholder engagement, the PIG fosters a transparent, inclusive, and patient-focused approach to funding decisions.

The NHS Wales IPFR PIG has been instrumental in ensuring the revised PAR policy is fit for purpose.

### 2.3 Revisions to the Prior Approval Request (PAR) Policy

In parallel with the review of the All Wales IPFR Policy, the opportunity was taken for the IPFR PIG to review the All Wales PAR Policy. The proposed version is accepted as being fit for purpose (Appendix 1).

The main changes to note are:

- Organisational change from WHSSC to NWJCC
- Clarity on exclusions which will not be considered
  - retrospective requests;
  - requests for healthcare travel costs;
  - referrals related to (potential) participation in a clinical trial – these are included in the research costs, or facilitated via Health and Care Research Wales.

The PAR process is an established process and ensures health boards and JCC have a consistent approach to decision making across NHS Wales. The PAR process generally works well and is fully embedded in the day to day function of NHS Wales.

Following robust discussion and agreement at the All Wales IPFR PIG, there are no risks to report and matters for escalation. Should any issues or concerns arise, these will be escalated in the first instance to Commissioning Colleagues within CTM UHB.

## 3 Assessment

| Objectives / Strategy  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Dolen i Nod (au) Strategol BIP CTM / Link to CTMUHB Strategic Goal(s)</b> | Improving Care   |
|  | If more than one applies please list below:  |
| <b>Dolen i Feysydd Strategol BIP CTM / Link to CTMUHB Strategic Areas</b>    | Choose an item.  |
|  | If more than one applies please list below:<br>This policy spans all strategic areas |



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|  |   |
| <b>Dolen i Ddeddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol – Nodau Llesiant / Link to Wellbeing of Future Generations Act – Wellbeing Goals</b><br><a href="#">150623-guide-to-the-fg-act-en.pdf</a><br><a href="#">(futuregenerations.wales)</a> | A Healthier Wales   |
|  | If more than one applies please list below:                                     |
| <b>Dolen i Hwyluswyr Ansawdd</b><br><i>(Canllawiau Statudol Dyletswydd Ansawdd (llyw.cymru)) /</i><br><b>Link to Enablers of Quality</b><br><a href="#">(Duty of Quality Statutory Guidance (gov.wales))</a>                             | Whole-systems Perspective   |
|  | If more than one applies please list below:                                     |
| <b>Dolen i Feysydd Ansawdd</b><br><i>(Canllawiau Statudol Dyletswydd Ansawdd (llyw.cymru)) /</i><br><b>Link to Domains of Quality</b><br><a href="#">(Duty of Quality Statutory Guidance (gov.wales))</a>                                | Person Centred  |
|  | If more than one applies please list below:<br>Policy spans all quality domains |
| <b>Effaith Amgylcheddol/ Cynaliadwyedd (5R) / Environmental /Sustainability Impact (5Rs)</b>   | No - Not Applicable   |
|  | If more than one applies please list below:                                     |

| Impact Assessment   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Ansawdd</b><br><i>Ydych chi wedi ymgymryd â Sgrinio Asesiad o'r Effaith ar Ansawdd? /</i><br><b>Quality</b><br><i>Have you undertaken a Quality Impact Assessment Screening?</i> | Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>            | No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>                    |
|   | Outcome:                                 | If no, please include rationale below:<br>All Wales policy |
| <b>Cydraddoldeb a'r Gymraeg</b>   | Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No: <input type="checkbox"/>                               |



|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <p><i>Ydych chi wedi ymgymryd â Sgrinio Asesiad o'r Effaith ar Gydraddoldeb a'r Gymraeg? /</i><br/> <b>Equality and Welsh Language</b><br/> <i>Have you undertaken an Equality and Welsh Language Impact Assessment Screening?</i></p> | <p>Outcome for Equality (delete as appropriate):<br/><br/>NEUTRAL</p> <p>Outcome for Welsh Language (delete as appropriate):<br/><br/>NEUTRAL</p> | <p>If no, please include rationale below:</p> |
| <p><b>Cyfreithiol / Legal</b></p>  | <p>There are no specific legal implications related to the activity outlined in this report.</p>  |   |
| <p><b>Enw da / Reputational</b></p>  | <p>Yes (Include further detail below)<br/>The is risk of reputational harm if the policy is not approved and endorsed for use in CTM UHB.</p>     |   |
| <p><b>Effaith Adnoddau</b><br/><i>(Pobl /Ariannol) /</i><br/> <b>Resource Impact</b><br/><i>(People / Financial)</i></p>   | <p>Choose an item.</p>  |   |

**4 Recommendation**

The Board is asked to Approve the revised All Wales PAR Policy (2025) and approve its implementation within Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB with immediate effect.

**5 Next Steps**

No further action following approval and endorsement from the Board.