



Health Boards and Trusts

Our Ref: AG/

1 April 2015

Dear Colleague,

Health and Care Standards

On the 9 July 2013 the Health Minister gave a commitment to review and update 'Doing Well, Doing Better' the Standards for Health Services in Wales (2010) and the 'Fundamentals of Care' Standards (2003). The new Health and Care Standards were created following extensive consultation with a wide range of stakeholders and the public. These standards come in to force on 1 April 2015.

The Health and Care Standards have been designed to fit with the seven themes that were developed through engagement with the public and form the basis of the NHS Outcomes and Delivery Framework. The Health and Care Standards have also been designed so that they can be implemented in all health care services, settings and locations. They establish a basis for improving the quality and safety of healthcare services by providing a framework which can be used in identifying strengths and highlighting areas for improvement.

The Health and Care Standards will be underpinned by supporting guidance produced for health services. This will be posted on the NHS Wales Governance e-Manual website (<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/governance-emanual/>). Guidance will be updated as necessary to reflect new areas for improvement and national priorities.

The Health and Care Standards will continue to be used by Healthcare Inspectorate Wales as part of their public assurance role. However, health services will be expected to understand and actively assure themselves on how well they meet these standards on an ongoing basis. Further information relating to the monitoring of the Health and Care Standards will be issued by Welsh Government during 2015.



I am very pleased to commend the Health and Care Standards to you. They further demonstrate our continuous commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of the population of Wales and the quality of the healthcare provided.

Yours sincerely

Dr Andrew Goodall