

# Procurement Services Customer Newsletter

Winter 2020

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### Grange University Hospital now open for patients



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# Welcome

## Introduction from Jonathan Irvine

### Director, Procurement & Health Courier Services

**This year has presented the most significant challenge which will ever have been faced by most procurement professionals across the globe. The emergence of the Coronavirus has tested to the limit and transformed the role of our profession and will continue to do so as we seek to win the war against COVID 19.**

Nowhere has this war been more evident and keenly fought than within the NHS procurement environment. The success of NWSSP Procurement Services in rising to and meeting this challenge has been impressive and well recognised on a national and UK level.

Our efforts alongside our fellow NHS colleagues have undoubtedly contributed to keeping Wales safe during the course of the pandemic. I am rightly proud of all the achievements of my teams across Wales in the areas of PPE and equipment sourcing, distribution and supply, support to the establishment of Field Hospitals and extending our services for the provision of PPE into Social Care and Primary Care Sectors.

Our Commissioning team also implemented a range of complex and strategically vital contracts with the private healthcare sector to ensure that capacity within our hospitals would not be breached and that urgent clinical interventions could continue to be delivered to the most vulnerable within our patient population in Wales. You will be able to read further on the detail of some of these projects in this newsletter.

Our input continues at a national level in the delivery of the PPE Winter Protection Plan and the direct engagement in delivery of the vaccine and mass testing programmes. I also wish to extend a sincere thank you to all of our Welsh Government, Health Board and Trust colleagues with whom we have collaborated and integrated to deliver COVID-19 product, equipment and services required to meet demand at the point of need in a globally challenging market and under intense pressure in terms of volume and speed of delivery.

Within this context it also refreshing to be able to celebrate the success of non-COVID activities which have continued to run in parallel with our main pandemic response activity. In particular our staff have been directly involved in the procurement and deployment of all of the products and services which were required to enable the opening of the Grange Hospital earlier in November. This has been the culmination of many months of intensive work by our dedicated procurement team and the scale and capability of the new Grange Hospital pays testament to their professional skills.

We have also continued to implement national contracts across our Clinical and Non-Clinical portfolios as well as impressive results in the areas of technology and education services. You will be able to read further on the detail of some of these projects in this newsletter.

Moving forward we have restarted our Scan4Safety Wales project and I hope to be able to report on progress throughout the course of next year. Plans to further develop and integrate our Procurement Services teams at a national, regional and local level are underway and the move towards the establishment of our National Distribution Centre is also advancing rapidly. It is however difficult to move too far away from the continued demands placed on our staff and resources by the twin priorities of dealing with the pandemic and ensuring that we have resilience in place to mitigate against the impact of Brexit.

On both of these critical issues we are continuing to develop our stock, supply lines and distribution capacity to provide the necessary assurances to the people of Wales that the NHS is ready to meet and overcome the massive challenges ahead. I wish to finish by once again paying tribute to my staff within Procurement Services and the wider NWSSP for all of their hard work, commitment, ingenuity and support across the course of 2020 which, I believe, has resulted in Wales being in a strong position to meet the next period and beyond with confidence.

Take care and stay safe.

Jonathan



**Jonathan Irvine**

Director

Procurement and Health Courier Services

# £13 million technology investment for NHS Wales' intensive care patients



## Hospitals in Wales are to benefit from a new high-tech digital-monitoring system for seriously ill people in intensive care units.

Following a pledge by Minister for Health and Social Services Vaughan Gething to accelerate digital improvements for critical care, the NHS Wales Informatics Service has signed a £13 million contract with the supplier ASCOM on the 11th September 2020. NWSSP Procurement staff embedded within the Informatics Service supported the procurement process.

The seven-year agreement for ASCOM's Digistat software delivers a managed service and provides a technical platform to develop the all-Wales Intensive Care Information System (WICIS). Funding is provided by Welsh Government, Health Boards and the Critical Care Trauma Network.

Digital innovation will transform critical care by automating the collection of data from the sophisticated monitors and devices used to support patients with life-threatening illness or injuries. With increasing pressure on intensive care services, reducing the administrative burden on NHS Wales staff will free-up more time for patient care. More than 10,000 people are admitted for critical care in Welsh hospitals each year.

At present staff at Wales' 14 Intensive Care Units, with a total of 198 beds, are mainly required to complete extensive paper charts to record vital life-signs. Automation will make real-time information available across a range of devices, forming part of the patient's digital patient record, streamlining care processes.

Integration with NHS Wales systems will enable intensive care staff to:

- Record patient assessments electronically
- Manage prescriptions and drug administration at the bedside
- Connect with bedside equipment to record vital signs and fluid balance
- Calculate a patient's acuity scores
- Better manage infection control
- Manage daily care plans
- Create reports on results and department objectives
- Support national audit and research needs.

Information will also be collated in a dynamic database, which can also be used to benchmark against other healthcare systems and provide a platform for research and potential implementation of artificial intelligence-driven improvements in daily care.





# £13 million technology investment for NHS Wales' intensive care patients



Vaughan Gething

Mr Gething said: "Our Welsh intensive care services deliver extraordinary services helping people when they are critically ill.

The introduction of this innovative technology will enhance the care patients receive and allow doctors and nurses to spend as much time as possible caring for patients. The use of technology to deliver a sustainable NHS is a key part of A Healthier Wales, our long-term strategy for health and social care in Wales."

Professor Tamas Szakmany, national clinical lead and consultant at the Royal Gwent Hospital, said: "The new system will make the life of frontline critical care staff easier by cutting waste, duplication and potential for error. It will enable us to work seamlessly across organisational boundaries, to share good practice and to rapidly implement change driven by evidence."

The new Grange University Hospital, which will serve the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board area, will be the first to adopt the new system in summer 2021. Planned roll out will then follow to all NHS Wales intensive care units.

For further information on this contract please contact Katharine Fletcher, Deputy Head of Sourcing: [katharine.fletcher@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:katharine.fletcher@wales.nhs.uk)



# Double celebration as Procurement & Health Courier Services colleagues honoured in Queen's Birthday Honours List

**Congratulations to Procurement & Health Courier Services colleagues Claire Salisbury who has been awarded with an MBE and Paul Buckingham- the British Empire Medal respectively, for their outstanding contributions to NHS Wales during the coronavirus pandemic as part of the Queen's Birthday Honours List.**

Claire, Assistant Director of Procurement based within Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, was successful in securing vital supplies of PPE for Cardiff and Vale Health Board and in an All Wales capacity during the crisis.

Claire said: *"It was extremely difficult to secure PPE in a fractured market, but I feel so passionate about helping people and that is why I joined the NHS. It was a huge amount of effort to make it all happen and I managed to secure the contract for the four nations and I am so grateful for the people that have recognised my efforts."*

Claire said she was shocked and delighted to receive the award and thanked all the NHS staff who have done so much during the pandemic: *"I am delighted to receive this award and wish to take this opportunity to thank all of my colleagues within Cardiff and Vale Health Board and NWSSP who have supported me and my team in delivering a successful Covid response for NHS Wales."*

Jonathan Irvine, Director of Procurement & Health Courier Services: *"I am delighted that Claire has been awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours. This is a richly deserved award which recognises the enormous amount of time and effort that Claire gave and continues to give in sourcing and securing critical supply lines of PPE on behalf of the NHS in Wales. Claire's skills and experience have been instrumental in what has been considered a very successful procurement response by NWSSP to the COVID challenge."*

*"I wish Claire every success for her future within NWSSP and again offer my sincere congratulations to her for this impressive achievement and her honours award. Well done Claire."*



Paul, Senior Procurement Business Manager within Hywel Dda University Health Board, has played a crucial role within the Hywel Dda Frontline Procurement Team during the Coronavirus pandemic providing invaluable support to the Health Board over the course of the Covid-19 challenge.

Paul said: *"The past six months has been a very challenging period for everyone in the NHS. Part of my response to COVID-19 included working and collaborating with many services in Hywel Dda and NWSSP to develop a local supply and distribution network. As a team effort working across organisations we developed new approaches and reporting solutions to meet the changing demands on the NHS."*

*"Providing re-useable PPE to ensure a sustainable resource was one of our key objectives, failure was not an option we had to make it happen and I am proud of the team who continue to go over and above the call of duty every day. I am so grateful to be recognised and receive this award, however, this was a team effort, and I would like to dedicate it to all involved in the effort across NWSSP and Hywel Dda UHB."*

In terms of Paul's recognition Jonathan added: *"I am very pleased and proud to hear that Paul has been awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Paul is a key member of our Hywel Dda Frontline Procurement Team and he has contributed enormously to the effectiveness of our local procurement service in this area during the pandemic."*

*"Paul has demonstrated a real commitment to the delivery of service on the frontline and has been a crucial procurement support to the Health Board over the course of the COVID 19 challenge. I know Paul will continue to be a critical part of our procurement service in the future and I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate him on receiving this award."*



# Procurement & Health Courier Services team honoured at Wales Transport Awards



## WINNERS Special Recognition Award

Congratulations to our Procurement & Health Courier Services Supply Chain, Logistics and Transport team who won the Special Recognition Award at the recent Wales Transport Awards.

The Wales Transport Awards (WTA) are held each year to recognise and celebrate the nation's work throughout the industries sector. The Supply Chain, Logistics and Transport team won the award for their outstanding contribution in supporting NHS Wales during the coronavirus pandemic.

Graham Davies, Assistant Director of Procurement - Logistics and Materials Management said:

*"This award is great for all of the team across Supply Chain, Logistics and Transport. It was particularly pleasing to note that Business Wales created a special category to recognise the great work that has gone on throughout the COVID-19 pandemic where all staff have stepped up to the mark and taken on all challenges thrown at them."*

Tony Chatfield, Head of NHS Wales Supply Chain, Logistics & Transport:

*"The WTA recognised our incredible commitment and perseverance of staff in their response to the Covid Pandemic. What our staff have achieved is simply incredible, and beyond expectation. Their hard work and dedication often goes without recognition, and this award helps recognise that what they have achieved in what is extraordinary circumstances, and has no doubt helped save many lives."*

Further information regarding the awards plus a video of the event, can be found on the Wales Transport Awards website at the following [link](#).

# PPE Sourcing



When the Covid-19 pandemic hit the UK in early March, NWSSP was inundated with offers of support from new and existing suppliers relating to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The Clinical Sourcing Team were quickly tasked with establishing a 'triaging' process to manage the volume of queries efficiently and in accordance with audit requirements.

The team quickly established a documented process, working alongside SMTL and colleagues from other Sourcing Teams to record and review all offers of supply for critical PPE items. This included ensuring that all offers were from legitimate supply sources, which involved checking company backgrounds, ensuring that they had the financial capacity to supply NHS Wales and were an established supplier of PPE.

Once the initial checks were completed the team were then tasked with obtaining the appropriate product certifications from each supplier in order to ensure that all potential products were certified to the relevant quality and safety standards. This was a crucial part of the process and was essential in ensuring that only those products which passed all of these checks were progressed to the ordering stage. This kept the safety and well-being of our patients and colleagues at the forefront of the decision-making process.

We remain indebted to our colleagues in SMTL for their expertise and support with this part of the process.

Given the high-profile nature of PPE procurement at the height of the pandemic, this process ensured that only legitimate suppliers were used for sourcing critical PPE and also ensured that NHS Wales did not once run out of stock of any PPE product lines. Between 17th March and 30th April, the Supplier Triaging Team dealt with over 2,000 offers of support from suppliers. It was an incredible effort by all involved.

The Supplier Triaging Process was the precursor to the formal 'Industry Challenge' Process that was overseen by colleagues in the Life Sciences Hub and Industry Wales.

The process that was initially established within the Clinical Sourcing Team was adopted by Life Sciences Hub and is still being used to assist new suppliers to do business with NHS Wales during this unprecedented Public Health crisis. Given the small number of people involved in the original Supplier Triaging Service within NWSSP, it was a remarkable achievement by all concerned.





# Procurement Services celebrate success at Health Care Supply Association national awards

## 2020 HCSA AWARDS CEREMONY

Congratulations to our Procurement Services division who have been successful across a number of categories in the prestigious Health Care Supply Association (HCSA) national awards. Procurement Services were honoured in recognition of the excellent work that they have been undertaking and how staff have continued to demonstrate their dedication, innovation and professionalism in ongoing support of patient healthcare services.

The awards, held virtually on 18th November 2020, saw NWSSP Cardiff & Vale Frontline Procurement team as joint winners in the category of Procurement Team of the Year; Claire Salisbury of the NWSSP Cardiff & Vale Frontline Procurement was Highly Commended in the Procurement Leader of the Year category; Procurement Services Highly Commended in the Cross Functional Collaboration award in collaboration with the National Collaborative Commissioning Unit (National Collaborative Framework Agreement for Adults with Mental Health and Learning Disabilities), and Highly Commended in the category of Procurement Technology award for the NWSSP Cardiff & Vale Frontline Procurement (All Wales Eye Care Digitisation Programme).

Procurement colleague Paul Sydenham was also the winner of the Chairman's Lifetime Achievement Award. Paul, recently retired after over four and a half decades' worth of dedicated service to procurement, was judged the winner as his expertise, knowledge and enthusiasm has played a crucial part in delivering services to the NHS in Wales. Paul has also played a huge role within the HCSA being the regional representative for Wales for over 20 years.

To round off a very successful award ceremony the entire NHS procurement and supplier community were deemed winners of the HCSA President Award.

Reflecting on the successes of Procurement Services at the awards Jonathan Irvine, Director of Procurement Services said: *"I am delighted that the work of NWSSP Procurement Services has been so widely recognised through our success in the HCSA national awards. The breadth of this success across a number of categories demonstrates our achievements in many areas of procurement activity and highlights the exceptional talent we are developing within our team and leadership profiles. These achievements are particularly significant this year given the additional challenges brought about by the COVID 19 procurement challenge against which staff had to deliver. I wish to thank all staff involved and pass on my sincere congratulations to our award winners."*

Graham Davies, Assistant Director of Procurement - Logistics and Materials Management added: *"Yet again, NWSSP has proved to be an organisation demonstrating excellence and quality of service. We have picked up awards in 6 out of the 10 categories, so all who work in Procurement and Health Courier Services can be proud of their achievements. It was particularly pleasing to note that The Presidents of HCSA – Lord Philip Hunt – recognised the efforts of all NHS procurement, logistics and supplier community for our efforts through the COVID pandemic."*

Paul Sydenham





# Procurement Services celebrate success at Health Care Supply Association national awards

Mark Roscrow MBE, Programme Director-Procurement Services and Chair of Trustees, HCSA said:

*"As Chair of Trustees you can appreciate it was extremely difficult to organise both the on line conference and to run the normal awards process. Firstly my appreciation to all those who helped to make it such a great event. I would like to extend my congratulations to all those who were successful either in winning or in obtaining highly commended status. I know the judging was extremely difficult with so many very good entries. I was also really delighted with the President's award and all staff should feel justly proud of this recognition for a fantastic job so well done. It was also a pleasure for me to present the Chairman's award to Paul Sydenham in recognition of all he has done for HCSA over many years."*

*"It would have been nice to have the recognition at an awards dinner but clearly that was not possible so hopefully the teams and individuals have managed some form of recognition. Let's hope we can get together next year and Wales will again set the standard not only in the number of submissions but also in these being successful."*



Mark Roscrow MBE



Claire Salisbury

On winning the Team of the Year Award Claire Salisbury, Assistant Director of Procurement (Cardiff and Vale University Health Board), Procurement Services said:

*"I am delighted that the CVU local team have been recognised at the National Awards. The team consistently demonstrates their ability to go above and beyond the expectations set of them, through team working and collaboration. This was particularly evident during the response to Covid-19 when the team excelled in supporting the UHB and All Wales to deliver their strategic objectives."*

On being Highly Commended in the Procurement Leader of the Year category, Claire added:

*"I am delighted to accept the highly commended for this award and wish to take this opportunity to thank all of my colleagues within Cardiff and Vale Health Board and NWSSP who have supported me and my team in delivering a very successful year and COVID response for NHS Wales. I feel fortunate that I am in a position to work with such amazing people, who have supported me delivering the strategy of cutting edge projects/contracts that has resulted in the successful outcome for Wales on a local, regional and national basis during the past year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the NHS staff who have done so much during the pandemic for our patients and I recognise my award as a reflection of all of their efforts."*

# Grange University Hospital now open for patients

Under construction for the last 3 years, the Grange University Hospital (GUH) is now open. Whilst providing a centre of excellence in Gwent and South Powys to treat patients with serious illnesses and injuries, it heralds a wider change in the way Aneurin Bevan University Health board (ABUHB) will deliver Healthcare in the future.

The early opening of the 560 bed hospital (including trolleys & cots) will deliver immediate support to the Health Board's communities. With seasonal challenges and the added demands due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

GUH's focus on Emergency Medicine, Critical Care and Specialist Services will allow the three enhanced local general hospitals; Royal Gwent, Neville Hall and Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr to provide lower acuity care, including minor injury and assessment units, in turn supported by a network of community hospitals.

The Health Board is now treating more people than ever before. ABUHB has a principal aim of providing safe, high quality care, maintaining the health and wellbeing of the population it serves, reducing health inequalities and ensuring sustainability. No mean feat in today's world, however having flexibility in approach and taking action to improve how people are cared for and supported is being undertaken.

The opening of GUH and the modifications to services in other hospitals is testament to ABUHB's commitment to maintaining safe and sustainable services for local communities; having the right staff in the right place for care safeguards the very highest standards of care for patients.

Further information regarding the services at GUH can be found at the following [link](#).





# Medical Team Update

## Working Groups and User Engagement

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic the way we are engaging with clinical users as part of contract processes and management is being adapted, all working group meetings within the Medical Sourcing Team are now taking place virtually via Microsoft Teams.

We are currently reviewing how the team will be undertaking product quality evaluations with clinical users moving forward, and are working with individual working groups on designing evaluation processes in line with current guidance and regulations.

Within the next 6 months we will be holding working groups for Patient Temperature Management, Electrosurgical Instrumentation, Laparoscopic Instruments and Consumables, Theatre Disposables, Vascular Access Accessories, and Airway Management.

If you would be interested in being involved in any future working groups contact your Frontline Procurement Team or via the [Medical Team](#) for further information.

## Contract Awards

The Medical team has had a busy few months with the following contracts being awarded, overall these contracts have provided Health Boards and Trusts within NHS Wales a saving opportunity of over £285k, there are also further savings opportunities available should a Health Board or Trust wish to standardise and rationalise spend.

A brief overview of the awards can be found opposite, the award of these agreements may have had an effect on availability of items from the catalogue or Procurement Services stores.

Communication on these changes and impact on Health Boards and Trusts were circulated at the point of award, for further information on opportunities or changes please contact the Medical Team via [email](#) quoting the relevant reference below.

Team	Division	Project Title	Ref	Start
SOURCING - MEDICAL & CLINICAL	ANAESTHETICS, BREATHING AND IV	DRESSINGS IV	MED OJEU-41929	01/08/20
SOURCING - MEDICAL & CLINICAL	THEATRE CONSUMABLES	SUCTION CANISTERS & LINERS	MED OJEU-40809	01/08/20
SOURCING - MEDICAL & CLINICAL	ANAESTHETICS, BREATHING AND IV	SPECIALITY NEEDLES & SYRINGES	MED OJEU-41931	01/09/20
SOURCING - MEDICAL & CLINICAL	ANAESTHETICS, BREATHING AND IV	SPECIALITY VASCULAR ACCESS	MED OJEU-41927	01/10/20
SOURCING - MEDICAL & CLINICAL	ANAESTHETICS, BREATHING AND IV	LARYNGECTOMY AND TRACHEOSTOMY CONSUMABLES	MED OJEU-43237	01/10/20

## Dressings IV

This agreement focuses on antimicrobial, semi-permeable and vapour permeable dressings, with the new agreement also incorporating chlorhexidine-impregnated discs, which are used as an alternative to a chlorhexidine dressing to reduce infection around the insertion site when a central venous catheter is in situ.

The agreement will run for a period of 4 years and has realised a saving in excess of £139k on an All Wales basis.

## Suction Canisters and Liners

This agreement is for the provision of all Suction Canisters, and their associated liners and accessories across NHS Wales, the agreement also includes the provision of portable suction units not previously captured within any All Wales agreements.

The agreement will run for a period of 4 years and has realised a saving of over £47k on an All Wales basis.



# Medical Team Update

## Speciality Needles & Syringes

This agreement includes the provision of Insulin Pen Needles, Insulin Pen Needles Safety, Insulin Syringes and Pre-filled Saline Syringes.

The agreement once contained all spinal and epidural needles and accessories, new legislation aimed at aiding and preventing incorrect medication from being administered intrathecally, has meant that whilst these products undergo changes to their design, and have been removed from this contract and placed within their own agreement.

The agreement will run for a period of 4 years and has realised a saving in excess of £114k on an All Wales basis.

## Speciality Vascular Access

Intravenous Cannula's and Catheters as a category has evolved over the years, which has evolved the way in which we procure these goods on an All Wales basis.

What started as a focus on a basic cannula and needle IV for Wales has grown into multiple agreements for all consumables required to treat Welsh patients.

Procurement Services have 4 compliant agreements for Wales that furnish this category area.

For basic safety cannula's and needle IV's we have Vascular Access Devices, where there is a need for a more specialist item this agreement has been transformed to house such requirements, for all needle-free devices there is Vascular Access Accessories, and for dressings and stabilisation devices there is the Dressings IV agreement.



Speciality Vascular Access consists of the following consumables:

- Central Venous Catheters (CVC's)
- Midline Catheters
- Peripheral Insertion Catheters (Picc Line)
- Port Access Needles
- Implantable Ports
- Arterial Cannulas
- Intraosseous Needles (Manual and driver inserted).

The agreement has realised a saving of over £2k per annum on an All-Wales basis and will run for a period of 4 years.

## Laryngectomy and Tracheostomy Consumables

This agreement is for the provision of all Laryngectomy and Tracheostomy consumables including Tracheostomy Tubes, Tracheostomy Tube Holders, Tracheostomy Cleaning, Tracheostomy Protectors, Stoma Studs, Percutaneous Kits, Laryngectomy Tubes, Voice Prosthesis, Cricothyrotomy Kits, Inner cannulas, Tracheostomy HME Filters, and Tracheostomy Puncture Sets.

This agreement runs for a period of 4 years, there are multiple savings opportunities available to Health Boards under this agreement, for any further information and to discuss savings opportunities available contact the [Medical Team](#).





# Commissioning and IM&T Team: Activity Update

## Commissioning Team



The team has been active in a number of areas over the recent period on a number of key and important areas of activity:

Providing additional surgical, clinical and diagnostic capacity for NHS Wales

With significant pressures on acute services during the COVID period, the team has, and continues to support WHSSC in securing additional surgical, clinical and diagnostic capacity from non NHS Wales providers. Whole hospital capacity in all private hospitals in Wales was secured in conjunction with the Healthcare Providers Network.

All agreements aligned closely with arrangements within NHS England. The agreements were complex in nature but provided NHS Wales with access to urgent Outpatient capacity and surgical interventions including urgent cancer cases.

Every private hospital within Wales was, and is still being utilised to various degrees of capacity up until 31 December 2020.

Discussions are being held currently on future options post December 2020.

## Mental Health "surge" beds

In addition to the above the team has also been active in securing additional surge capacity beds for patients with Mental Health and Learning Disabilities during a period of significant pressure on the system. This also extended to securing additional Child and Adolescent Mental Health service (CAMHS) & PICU beds. Co-ordinating additional capacity on a national basis ensured that services were safe, to agreed standards and offered value for money on behalf of Health Boards.

## Ongoing activity update

In terms of business as usual activities, the Commissioning team have been working closely throughout the pandemic with a number of our key stakeholders. This has included working with:

Health Education and Improvement Wales' Education, Commissioning and Quality team to ensure the national delivery of Health Professional Education and Training Programmes to secure education for the future NHS Wales workforce continues to progress. This is a complex and detailed procurement exercise.



# Commissioning and IM&T Team: Activity Update



The Independent Mental Health Advocacy (IMHA) Service, funded by ring-fenced Welsh Government funds, was impacted by a review of the Mental Health Act (MHA) in 2019 and planned White Paper, which has been delayed due to the impact of the pandemic.

Following detailed deliberations, NWSSP will continue with the planned procurement exercise, ensuring the future agreement allows for necessary adjustments in line with the outcome of the Governments White Paper recommendations.

The National Collaborative Commissioning Unit and the Welsh Ambulance Service to commission the manufacture of a wheeled platform mobile unit for the provision of clinical and non-clinical care, with the solution having the capability of being mobilised quickly on site and commissioned for services within a short period to ease Emergency Department pressures for the handover of non-urgent patients.

## Velindre Integrated Radiotherapy Solution Project

Significant Procurement support is being provided to Velindre UNHST on a complex strategic project to replace existing Cancer Treatment equipment and associated digital systems.

The requirement is initially at the existing Velindre Cancer Centre and potentially at the proposed new Velindre Cancer Centre and Radiotherapy Satellite Centre (as part of the Transforming Cancer Services in SE Wales Programme).

The procurement, which commenced in March 2020, is being conducted under a Competitive Dialogue process given the complex nature of the clinical and commercial arrangements. The process being undertaken virtually which in itself is a challenge.

The scope primarily includes Treatment Machines, Treatment Planning System and Oncology Information System amongst many other features. The anticipated award is expected in the Spring of 2021.

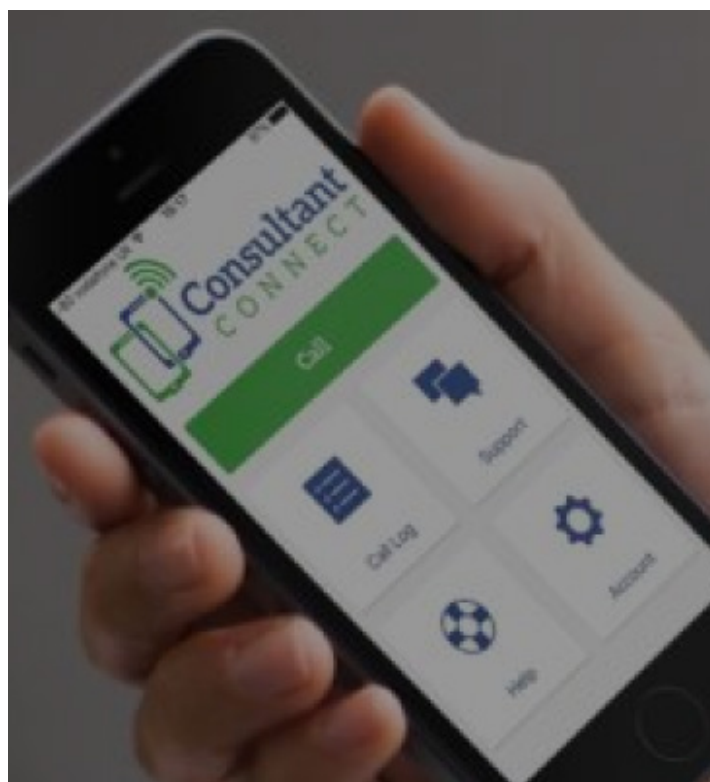




# Commissioning and IM&T Team: Activity Update

## Information Management & Technology Team Update

*Consultant Connect rolled out to support patient care*



Consultant Connect is an innovative phone app which allows patients to obtain advice rapidly from a range of hospital consultants or GP's. During the pandemic, when face to face consultation was not readily available, the communication platform has been invaluable for both patients and clinicians.

NWSSP IM&T Procurement Team completed the process within a week, with an annual value of £650k. The project has been an enormous success, with all Health Board's and Trust using the contract. A GP or other clinician accesses the service either by dialling a phone number or using the Consultant Connect app.

A GP or other clinician accesses the service either by dialling a phone number or using the Consultant Connect app. After choosing a specialty from a menu they are connected with a specialist in an average of 25 seconds.

Welsh Health Minister Vaughan Gething said at the launch of the app in May 2020: *"I am very pleased we are able to start rolling out the Consultant Connect in NHS Wales. This will help to support primary care to determine the right treatment for their patients."*

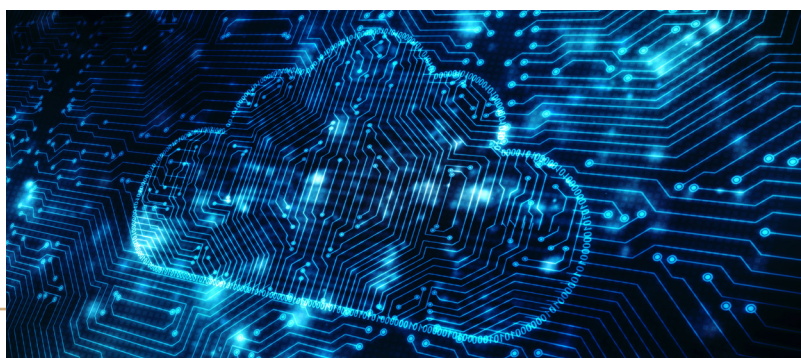
*"Right now it will save crucial time for health care professionals and reduce the amount of hospital visits needed by patients, at a time when our NHS is facing extra pressure. In the long-term the use of this technology is an important part of our plan for the future of health and social care, A Healthier Wales. Making the most of technology is vital to us building a modern health and social care service, in which care is delivered closer to home."*

## Service User Feedback System

A framework contract for Health Boards and Trusts to Call Off a real-time feedback system to capture valuable information from patients, donors, visitors, relatives and members of the public who access NHS Wales services. A 4 year framework, contract value estimated at £1 million.

## Harm Reduction Database

The HRD provides an anonymous web-based mechanism for recording activity relating to the range of harm reduction services provided to those accessing substance misuse services. The unique client data collected includes demographic, health and social care service contact information as well as service level activity data. A 3 year contract has been awarded.



# Non Medical Team Update



## Hand Sanitiser

Following a call to industry in Wales to diversify to support the NHS a number of local companies came forward to help with the production of both Hand Sanitiser and Nurse Uniforms to cope with the unprecedented demand.

As a result, a number of companies including the Welsh Whiskey Company Ltd (Penderyn Distillery), The Gower Gin Company, and Bottlers Distillers Wales, Fiddes Wood Finishes and BCB International diverted their ethanol to the production of Hand Sanitiser following the WHO Formulation 1.

WHO Formulation 1, requires a final Alcohol content of between 75 and 80% (+/-5%) and above and states that their formula complies with BS EN 1500. The products put forward by the companies confirmed compliance with the Health and Safety Executives current regulations for the introduction to the UK Market of Biocidal Hand Sanitisers (Biocidal Products Regulation (BPR) Article 55).

The product's data/documentation was verified for NWSSP as compliant with the requirements of the WHO Formulation by the Surgical Materials Testing Laboratory (SMTL).

The range of sanitisers produced by the Companies is currently being supplied into NHS Wales and is available in a range of sizes between 1ltr and 100ml. For further information please contact NWSSP Supply Chain Customer Services for product details.

## Nurses Uniforms

With the difficulties faced by Supply Chains worldwide when the pandemic took hold, the rush to establish new UK supply lines came into focus.

Working alongside Welsh Government, Alexandra set about establishing a source of supply closer to home. Linking in with Welsh garment manufacturers and more than 100 Community groups and Cottage Industries, Alexandra has been able to support Health Boards Trusts with the ability to provide Navy Scrub Uniforms to their Staff and Volunteers, whilst supporting Wales' Foundational Economy.





## Thank you for reading our newsletter

If you would like further information on any of the articles contained within this newsletter or would like to submit an article for the next edition please contact: [alex.curley@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:alex.curley@wales.nhs.uk)

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