

SUMMARY EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT –

Organisation:	Hywel Dda University Health Board
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Proposal Sponsored by:	Name:	
	Title:	Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) Manager/Referral Management Centre (RMC) Manager
	Department:	Referral Management Centre

Policy Title:	NHS Wales Prior Approval Policy – January 2017
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Brief Aims and Objectives of Policy:	<p>Health Board's in Wales have a responsibility to secure services for their patients. Patients registered with a GP in Wales who are resident in Wales do not have a statutory right to choose which hospital they are referred to. The Welsh Governments view is that in general, Health Boards can best organise services to meet the needs of their patients when such services are provided in Wales. This ensures equity in terms of access, convenience, and affords each Health Board the opportunity to strengthen and improve the quality of their local services thus providing a net gain for the whole community</p> <p>The aim of the policy will be met through the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To provide clarity for referring clinicians and patients on the decision making process for Prior Approval for Out of Area Referrals• To provide a clear governance framework for the decision making of Prior Approval for an Out of Area Referral on behalf of a patient.• To provide a clear procedure for challenge and appeal.
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Was the decision reached to proceed to full Equality Impact Assessment?: If no, please give reasons.	Yes	No✓
	<p>The body of evidence supporting this policy concludes that its existence and application is required, lawful and non-discriminatory. This position is reinforced by legal challenges made to the Court of Appeal who have defended the right of the NHS to apply such policies and that their impact (when applied properly) is not discriminatory. There is no indication that this differs on a locally applied basis within Hywel Dda University Health Board.</p> <p>The “Independent Review of the Individual Patient Funding Requests Process in Wales” report was published in January 2017 and made a number of recommendations to support the IPFR process. This includes the development of a clear and consistent national process for dealing with requests to access routine services outside of Local Health Board’s existing arrangements. This has resulted in an All Wales NHS Prior Approval Policy document.</p> <p>As each Health Board had previously had their own Prior Approval Policy, the IPFR Networking Group were of the opinion that moving to a All Wales Policy would have a neutral impact on protected groups. The new policy will be subject to a consultation period. Any issues arising in relation to equality, diversity or human rights during the consultation will be noted in the equality impact assessment review and action taken to eliminate or mitigate any potential disadvantage.</p>	
If no, are there any issues to be addressed?	Yes	No✓
	<p>In accordance with the EqIA, on original Hywel Dda Prior Approval Policy, the UHB will continue to raise public awareness of the New NHS Wales Policy by publishing details on the UHB intranet and internet site</p>	

Is the Policy Lawful?	Yes ✓	The body of evidence supporting this policy concludes that its existence and application is required, lawful and non-discriminatory.
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Will the Policy be adopted?	Yes ✓	This is an All Wales Policy and will be adopted throughout Wales
	If no, please record the reason and any further action required:	

Are monitoring arrangements in place?	Yes ✓	
	Any complaints received in relation to equality, diversity or human rights will be addressed on an individual basis and appropriate action taken.	

	Name:	Dr June Picton
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Who is the Lead Officer?	Title:	Associate Director for Professional Standards and Deputy Medical Director
	Department:	Referral Management Centre
Review Date of Policy:	Three yearly or sooner if required	

Signature of all parties:	Name	Title	Signature
		IPFR Manager	14 th March 2018
		Equality and Diversity Advisor	
<p>Please Note: An Action Plan should be attached to this Outcome Report prior to signature</p> <p>n/a</p>			

