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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

To:

Medical Directors, Local Health Boards

CC:

Medical Director of Health Education and Improvement Wales
Directors of Primary Care, Local Health Boards

16 March 2023

Dear Colleagues

Diagnosis of type 1 diabetes

The National Paediatric Diabetes Audit reported on 9 March 2023 that 25.6% of children and young people newly diagnosed with type 1 diabetes presented with DKA at diagnosis in 2021-22, compared to 25.8% in 2020-21 and 22.9% in 2019-20.

DKA requires intensive medical intervention, is traumatising to the child and family, and may cause long-term adverse effects on their diabetes management. I wrote to health boards in June 2018 to highlight the rate of DKA at diagnosis demonstrated in the 2017 audit report and requested health boards implement the all-Wales pathway for the Referral and Ongoing Care for Children with Suspected Diabetes. I also highlighted at the time healthcare professional education that was available from the Primary Care Diabetes Society and public awareness materials available from Diabetes UK Cymru.

It is therefore disappointing that these rates have risen in recent years. In light of the rates of DKA at the time of diagnosis, and a number of isolated but tragic patient deaths in recent years, I would like to seek your organisation's assurance that the national pathway has been implemented in your health boards. It is also important all practices and GP out of hours services have appropriate capillary glucose testing devices to deliver this pathway.

I would like draw your attention to the Cambridge Diabetes Education Programme for health and social care workers which has been commissioned for use in Wales by the National Clinical Leads for diabetes. If your health board requires any support or advice with regard to this matter, then please contact:

National clinical lead for diabetes: [REDACTED]

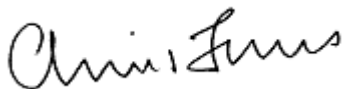
Diabetes paediatric network lead: [REDACTED]

All Wales primary care diabetes lead: [REDACTED]

You may also wish to be aware that the Diabetes Delivery Plan for Wales has been retired and the Quality Statement for Diabetes is due to be published on or around 15 June 2023. I would like to encourage you to engage with the national leads on its publication, particularly with regard to the preventative programmes contained within, including diabetes prevention and remission services.

Thank you for your assistance with these areas.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Jones', written in a cursive style.

PROF CHRIS JONES