

MHLD Visiting and Leave arrangements

Given the recent global situation regarding Covid-19 (Coronavirus) the Health Board is following the advice from Public Health Wales to ensure the wellbeing and safety of all our service users, carers and staff. Due to the recent advice we have had to make some necessary changes to visiting and leave arrangements within our inpatient areas. The following changes will therefore come into effect from 28 April 2020:

Visiting Arrangements

Visiting patients **not** infected with COVID-19

Welsh Government guidance issued on 20 April 2020 indicates that **visiting should be allowed for “someone with a mental health issue such as dementia, a learning disability or autism, where not being present would cause the patient/service user to be distressed.”**

In this case, visiting may be allowed under exceptional circumstances and agreed in advance by Ward Manager / nominated deputy. Only one visitor at a time should be allowed.

It is important that, wherever possible and safe to do so, you support families and loved ones to say goodbye to COVID-19 positive patients receiving end of life care; such visits are important both for the patient and their loved ones.

Leave Arrangements

It remains imperative that we follow Public Health advice and adhere to the recommendations currently in place. This means:

- **No routine leave unless they follow current government rules**
- **Shopping restricted to essential items only and in adherence to social distancing**
- **Medical reasons**
- **Maximum of one leave a day for exercise if social distancing deemed possible on the ward site**

We appreciate the problems this may cause and we will take all steps to minimise the restrictions placed upon people based upon the most up to date advice from Public Health Wales. We will let you know as soon as we make any further changes.