

Yr Adran Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Department for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

To:

LHB Chief Executives
Substance Misuse Area Planning Board Chairs
Community Safety Partnership Chairs

Cc

Substance Misuse Leads
LHB Pharmacy Leads
Russell Goodway, Chief Executive CPW

Eich Cyf/Your Ref:
Ein Cyf/Our Ref:

21st January 2014

Dear Colleague

RE: Harm Reduction Database Wales (HRD) for Community Pharmacy Needle Syringe Programmes

This letter confirms that from 1st April 2014 all Community Pharmacy based Needle Syringe Programmes (NSP) will be required to utilise the Harm Reduction Database Wales (HRD), a national web-based system for recording all NSP activity for unique individuals accessing this service.

Injecting drug use carries with it the risks of transmission of blood borne viruses and bacterial infections, representing a substantial burden of disease to the NHS. The introduction of the HRD in all statutory and voluntary NSP services in Wales in 2010 has been associated with improvements in the quality of service for a vulnerable and marginalised population, which was recognised by the award of the e-Health Insider Award for 'Best use of IT to promote patient safety' in 2012. The incorporation of pharmacy based NSP services to the HRD system ensures that Wales has a national system, providing essential information to all stakeholders on local trends in drug use, risk behaviours and engagement with health and social care organisations as well as a valuable audit and payment tool.

Welsh Government has met the cost of the annual license for each existing pharmacy NSP provider. Local Health Boards, Substance Misuse Area Planning Boards and Community

Merthyr Tydfil Office /
Swyddfa Merthyr Tudful,
Rhydycar/Rhyd-y-car,
Merthyr Tydfil/Merthyr
Tudful
CF40 1UZ



BUDDSODDWYR | INVESTORS
MEWN POBL | IN PEOPLE

Ffôn • Tel 07967 213933
Gareth.hewitt@wales.gsi.gov.uk
Gwefan • website: www.cymru.gov.uk

Safety Partnerships should therefore work together to ensure that all NSP activity is recorded on this system.

Information, training, and support will be provided to pharmacies by colleagues in Public Health Wales who will be in touch with Health Board leads shortly. If you have any queries, or for further information please contact Gareth Morgan or Josie Smith, Health Protection, Public Health Wales – Tel: 02920 402478.

Yours sincerely



**GARETH HEWITT
HEAD OF SUBSTANCE MISUSE
POLICY AND FINANCE**



**ANDREW EVANS
PRINCIPAL PHARMACIST**