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News from Wales

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2007 Update

Policy Statement and National Service Framework

In April 2007 the Welsh Assembly Government published the document *Designed to Tackle Renal Disease in Wales: A Policy Statement and National Service Framework (NSF)*. See www.wales.nhs.uk/nsf for background information about the Welsh Assembly Government Policy Statement and National Service Framework and the All-Wales Renal Advisory Group.

The Welsh Assembly Government's renal policy is aimed at improving the quality of care for people with or at risk from renal disease. This approach is part of the Assembly Government's efforts to achieve its vision for world class health and social care service as set out in *Designed for Life*, published in May 2005.

The Welsh Assembly Government's aim is to ensure that renal services are planned, organised and delivered around the needs of the children, young people and adults with or at risk of developing renal disease and their families.

The new Policy will help guide commissioners and providers, working in partnership, to transform the planning, organisation and delivery of renal services in Wales. The NSF document sets out the strategic direction for renal services and provides a framework to support all activity.

All Wales Renal Advisory Group

An All Wales Renal Advisory Group, established in 2006, leads on a number of national projects to support implementation and sets the strategic direction for renal services across Wales.

Renal Networks

Two Renal Networks, one for North Wales and one for South Wales, are being established and will be operational from April 2008. The Renal Networks will provide expertise and work with Local Health Boards' and Health Commission Wales' to commission the service. The Renal Networks will also work with the trusts and primary care to ensure the delivery of first class care.

Haemodialysis Capacity Planning

The All Wales Renal Advisory Group has commissioned a 6 monthly audit to assess and provide recommendations on the haemodialysis capacity throughout Wales. This audit provides expert advice to aid the planning and commissioning of haemodialysis capacity across Wales, addressing issues such as travel times and projected growth in prevalence.

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