



Agenda Item
3.1

Quality Safety and Outcomes Sub-Committee

Welsh Kidney Network

Dyddiad y Cyfarfod / Date of Meeting	29/06/2026
Statws Cyhoeddi / Publication Status	Open/ Public
	Not Applicable
Awdur yr Adroddiad / Report Author	WKN Quality and Patient Safety Lead WKN Lead Nurse
Cyflwynydd yr Adroddiad / Report Presenter	WKN Quality and Patient Safety Lead
Noddwr yr Adroddiad / Report Sponsor	Director of Commissioning for Specialised Services

Pwrpas yr Adroddiad / Report Purpose	For Assurance Choose an item.
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Engagement (internal/external) undertaken to date (including receipt/consideration at Committee/Group)		
Committee / Group / Individuals	Date	Outcome
N/A	Click or tap to enter a date.	Choose an item.

1. SITUATION/BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to provide a briefing on the current Quality Patient Safety issues within the services that are commissioned by the Welsh Kidney Network (WKN) across Wales.

The WKN is a vehicle through which specialised kidney services are planned and developed on an all-Wales basis in an efficient, economical and integrated manner and provides a single decision-making framework with clear remit, responsibility and accountability.

The WKN continues to work with the Regions to develop and monitor KPI's using real time Welsh data reporting, this has been enabled by the production of audit dashboards for commissioned areas. The WKN also incorporates the National published reports from the relevant UK audit organisations into this work. Collaboration work also continues with the UK Kidney Association (UKKA) with continued representation on the UKKA Patient Safety Group.

2. SPECIFIC MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

2.1 New Incidents for Reporting

There are no new incidents for this reporting period.

2.2 Closed Incidents proposed

There are 4 proposed NRI closures for this reporting period. The 4 proposed NRI closures will be discussed at the WKN National QPS meeting on 24/6/26. Assurance and shared national learning will be shared at the next meeting.

3. KEY RISKS

3.1 Risk Register

The risk register for the WKN is reviewed through:

- Meetings between the regional providers and the WKN.
- The Welsh Kidney Network, Quality Patient and Safety (QPS) performance assurance meeting.
- Welsh Kidney Network Senior Leadership Group.
- Specialised Services Commissioning Team meeting.
- Welsh Kidney Network meeting.

There are in total eight risks on the current Welsh Kidney Network Commissioning risk register, with no movement on risks during this reporting period.

3.1.1 Escalated risks

There are no escalated risks in this reporting period.

3.1.2 Reduced risks

There are no reduced risks in this reporting period.

3.1.3 Closed risks

There are no closed risks in this reporting period.

3.1.4 New risks

There are no new risks in this reporting period.

3.1.3 Risks above 15

There is one risk above 15 and appears on the NWJCC Organisational Risk Register:

JCC 65, WKN 18 – Renal Dialysis Capacity across Wales, risk rating 16.

If...the number of patients requiring dialysis continues to grow annually at a rate of 3–4% (or higher based on some projections).

Then...the demand will exceed current commissioned capacity across Wales for both unit-based and home dialysis, and there will be delays or limits on the number of patients accessing home dialysis, as the growing demand exceeds the capacity of the nursing workforce to provide timely training and ongoing monitoring.

Resulting in:

- The need to commission additional capacity, at financial risk to the NWJCC, to avoid population harm.
- Increased pressure on the commissioned NEPTS service to transport a greater number of patients to and from dialysis session 3 times per week at a financial risk to the NWJCC.

To mitigate the risk the WKN have introduced improvements within the Prevention pathway for Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD). Additional investment, through securing Value in Healthcare monies, has increased the number of patients choosing transplant and a home dialysis modality. Funding was allocated for additional dialysis units, the final unit in SBUHB (Neath Port Talbot) opened in May 2026.

The WKN is currently undertaking a Deep Dive to gain a greater understanding of the current position and key challenges within the Welsh Kidney Network. Identifying opportunities to mitigate the financial risk to the NWJCC and better inform future commissioning decisions for specialised kidney services. A report outlining recommendations and next steps to deliver system value and improve efficiency and sustainability will be presented to the NWJCC during September 2026.

As part of the NWJCC Strategic priorities, the WKN is working with regions on the development of Care Closer to Home submissions to deliver against the NWJCC Foundation Plan and allocated funding.

4. ADDITIONAL TEAM HIGHLIGHTS FOR CONSIDERATION

4.1 JCC Consultation Service Specification and Commissioning Policy closures

The consultation for SS/CP 342 Adult Kidney, Kidney-Pancreas Transplantation, Service Specification and Commissioning Policy, and CP33 Temporary Dialysis Away from Base (DAFB) Commissioning Policy closed on the 8 June 2026.

The WKN will review the consultation responses and draft recommendations to update the policy documents in preparation for the next Policy Validation meeting being held 23rd July 2026.

4.2 WKN Quality Improvement

The WKN in partnership with UK Kidney Association (UKKA) and Kidney Quality Improvement Partnership (KQIP) hosted a webinar 'Using the Kidney Patient Reported Experience Measure (PREM) to drive quality improvement – a virtual Wales event'. The event brought together PREM champions, patient experience leads, key NHS stakeholders; kidney matrons, managers, service leads, patients, kidney charities, Welsh Ambulance, the independent kidney service providers (ISP's) and members of the multi-professional teams from regions across Wales. The event enabled the key stakeholders to review regional PREM data and support regions and dialysis units to build PREM improvement action plans.

The South East Wales Nephrology & Transplant service are delivering a Tier 3 weight loss management programme using GLP1 drugs for improved access to kidney transplantation. It is the first standard care programme of its kind in the UK and working collaboratively to spread and scale across Wales.

4.3 Annual Conference

Meeting in October 2026 – the driving themes will be:

- Prevention of CKD (and delay progression)
- Older patients with kidney disease
- Shared Decision Making
- Care Closer to Home
- Transplant First

4.4 Renal Module

Swansea University and Bangor University deliver two renal modules annually (Level 6 and Level 7 module). The WKN have a dedicated slot to present the work of the WKN covering the role of the Lead Nurse, wider role of the clinical network and the function of the NWJCC and the commissioning of Specialised Services within Wales.

Aligning the WKN Strategy with the renal module delivery ensures renal nursing education includes the work of the WKN.

5. ASSESSMENT

Objectives / Strategy	
Dolen i Amcan (au) Strategol CBC / Link to JCC Strategic Objectives(s)	Ensure Quality
Dolen i Ddeddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol – Nodau Llesiant / Link to Wellbeing of Future Generations Act – Wellbeing Goals 150623-guide-to-the-fg-act-en.pdf (futuregenerations.wales)	A Healthier Wales
	If more than one applies please list below:
Dolen i Hwyluswyr Ansawdd <i>(Canllawiau Statudol Dyletswydd Ansawdd (llyw.cymru)) /</i> Link to Enablers of Quality (Duty of Quality Statutory Guidance (gov.wales))	Whole-systems Perspective
	If more than one applies please list below:
Dolen i Feysydd Ansawdd <i>(Canllawiau Statudol Dyletswydd Ansawdd (llyw.cymru)) /</i> Link to Domains of Quality (Duty of Quality Statutory Guidance (gov.wales))	Safe
	If more than one applies please list below:
Effaith Amgylcheddol/ Cynaliadwyedd (5R) / Environmental /Sustainability Impact (5Rs)	No - Not Applicable
	If more than one applies please list below:

Impact Assessment		
Ansawdd	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<p><i>Ydych chi wedi ymgymryd â Sgrinio Aseiad o'r Effaith ar Ansawdd? /</i> Quality <i>Have you undertaken a Quality Impact Assessment Screening?</i></p>		
	Outcome:	If no, please include rationale below:
<p>Cydraddoldeb <i>Ydych chi wedi ymgymryd â Sgrinio Aseiad o'r Effaith ar Gydraddoldeb? /</i> Equality <i>Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment Screening?</i></p>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Outcome:	If no, please include rationale below:
Cyfreithiol / Legal	There are no specific legal implications related to the activity outlined in this report.	
Enw da / Reputational	There is no direct impact on the reputation of the Joint Committee as a result of the activity outlined in this report.	
<p>Effaith Adnoddau <i>(Pobl / Ariannol) /</i> Resource Impact <i>(People / Financial)</i></p>	There is no direct impact on resources as a result of the activity outlined in this report.	

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

The members of the Quality Safety and Outcomes Sub Committee are asked to:

- **Receive** the report as **assurance**.

Acronyms / Glossary of Terms	
ABOi	Blood Group Incompatible
BCUHB	Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
CKD	Chronic Kidney Disease
CVUHB	Cardiff & Vale University Health Board
CP	Commissioning Policy
DAFB	Dialysis Away From Base
DCHW	Digital Care Health Wales
GLP1	Glucagon-like peptide-1
ISP	Independent Service Provider
KPIs	Key Performance Indicators
NHSBT	NHS Blood and Transplant
NEPTS	Non-Emergency Patient Transport Service
NMC	The Nursing and Midwifery Council
NRI	National Reportable Incidents
NWJCC	NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee
PREM	Patient Reported Experience Measure
ODT	Organ Donation and Transplant
QPS	Quality Patient and Safety
REALM	Radiology Events and Learning Meeting
SBUHB	Swansea Bay University Health Board
SS	Service Specification
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
UHW	University Hospital Wales
UKKA	UK Kidney Association
WKN	Welsh Kidney Network
WTAAIL	Welsh Transplant and Immunogenetics Laboratory