

This is a CSP members briefing on policy and public affairs, shared amongst CSP members, physio leaders, and NHS leaders in Wales.

1. Senedd Cymru and Welsh Government

a. National Assembly renamed 'Senedd Cymru, The Welsh Parliament'.

A quick note to say that the National Assembly has changed its name to the Senedd/Welsh Parliament. Assembly Members will now be called Members of the Senedd MS or Aelodau'r Senedd 'AS' in Welsh. The Welsh Government will still be called the Welsh Government! This marks the end of several changes in names over the last 20 years, and it's hoped will create clarity for the public. Most people in public affairs will be using 'the Senedd' for short, and the branding is expected to reflect this.

b. Formal letter to the Minister on PPE

In March, Alex MacKenzie, CSP Chair of Council wrote to all the Health Ministers around the UK, about PPE availability to staff. In Wales, the team shared this letter with all the Members of the Senedd and asked them to follow up with the Minister. Since then, the PPE guidance has been changed and our website reflects the guidance that should be followed. We remain concerned that physiotherapists should always have access to the appropriate PPE for an aerosol generating procedures. The CSP supports the TUC Wales view that all key workers should know that they are entitled to testing and can access the right PPE to protect them and their colleagues

c. Elections being postponed?

A rumour is in full flow that the Senedd elections in 2021 will be postponed. All elections (local and national) have been postponed until 2021, and in the last couple of weeks the planned Police and Crime Commissioner elections in May 2021 have now been postponed by the UK Government until May 2022.

d. Rehab questions to the Minister for Health.

The CSP and RCOT have submitted written questions to the Minister for Health through Rhun ap Iorwerth MS. So far we have received one response, which is below:

Rhun ap Iorwerth (Ynys Môn): *What assessment has the Welsh Government made of the rehabilitation needs of coronavirus patients, and what funding will be available to meet those needs? WAQ80037 (e)*

Vaughan Gething: We anticipate increasing demand for rehabilitation from people recovering from coronavirus. We are preparing to meet this and the needs of others who are recovering from other conditions and have other rehabilitation needs.

I have announced an extra £10m to support people recovering from coronavirus, including enhanced home care packages for people dealing with the physical and mental health effects of lockdown.

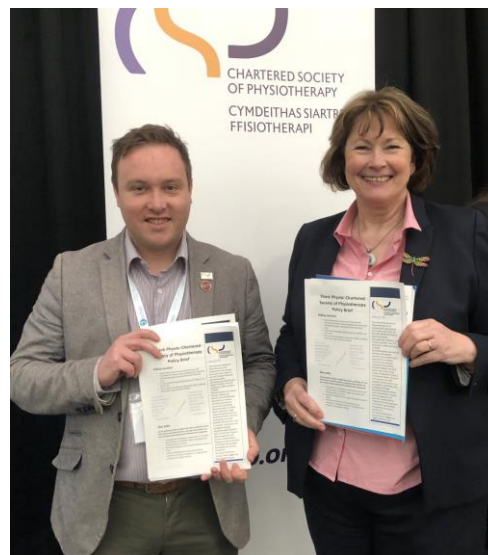
Further information is available at: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-04/covid-19-hospital-discharge-service-requirements.pdf>

Regional Partnership Boards will be expected to use the funding exclusively to support their immediate regional coronavirus response.

e. Party Conferences

The only Welsh political party to hold their spring conference was the Conservative Party. At the party conference policy officer Calum Higgins met with the Welsh Conservative Shadow Minister for Health and Social Services, Angela Burns MS. They discussed Community rehab and FCP.

The other parties were forced to postpone during the pandemic and have rescheduled to the Autumn. The CSP will attend these conferences with a primary aim of promoting investment in community rehab as a policy aim for the elections. Pic: CSPs Calum Higgins and Angela Burns MS.



2. COVID-19

a. Modelling of virus

The Welsh Government is publishing regular summaries of its scientific data, including the modelling for lifting the lockdown. This information is linked here:

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-05/technical-advisory-cell-modelling-update.pdf>

b. Who's doing what?

If you're confused by whether the Welsh Government or UK Government is responsible for a part of the Covid response, [this blog post](#) from the Senedd Research team gives a great breakdown of "who does what on Covid".

c. Test, trace, and protect

The Welsh Government has now introduced its "test, trace, and protect strategy. The strategy is the main <https://gov.wales/test-trace-protect-html>

d. Roadmap to unlocking the lockdown

The First Minister has [launched the roadmap](#) to unlocking the restrictions currently on society and the economy. This roadmap works on a traffic light system, where we are currently at Red.

e. CSP launches Covid-19 rehab standards

The CSP has [developed standards to guide](#) members working in the rehabilitation of adults receiving care for Covid-19 in hospital. They are underpinned by NICE standards and have been peer-reviewed by experts.

The standards, aimed at physiotherapy workers and service leads, set out the key principles of providing physiotherapy in a multidisciplinary care context. They are vital for facilitating safe and rapid decision making and ensuring the delivery of high quality assessment and personalised physiotherapy.

This set of standards covers rehabilitation in hospital critical and acute care settings through to step-down rehabilitation facilities and/or ongoing rehabilitation in the community.

f. Useful resources

The CSP [guide to virtual consultations](#) is available online.

The World Confederation for Physical Therapy has [released a briefing](#) that members may find useful. This briefing paper focuses on rehabilitation as it applies to individuals and will also consider the wider systems issues as they relate to physiotherapy. A later briefing paper will consider the impact of COVID-19 and rehabilitation in fragile systems and vulnerable communities.

4. Welsh Physiotherapists in the news

During the last couple of weeks there has been some excellent news items on BBC, ITV, S4C and Channel 4 about the work of AHP's and especially physiotherapy during this ongoing crisis, and also about how rehabilitation is and will be vital to helping people recover and get back their lives and futures. Below are links to these news items in case you missed them when they were broadcast. Thank you to all the members who represented the profession and the NHS as a whole, it was inspiring to see the reaction on social media on how dedicated members are to their work.

Channel 4

<https://youtu.be/4Sujxp1Zy2I>

BBC One Wales

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-wales-52675695/coronavirus-icu-patient-climbed-pen-y-fan-two-weeks-before>

S4C/BBC Cymru

<https://twitter.com/BBCCymruFyw/status/1261257483051466752>

ITV Wales

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MnXbURKqLsl>

In April, the Right to Rehab campaign made the top of the BBC Wales news website and you can [read it here](#).

5. Consultations

- a. **Senedd Health and Social Care Committee: [Inquiry into the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak, and its management, on health and social care in Wales](#).**

The CSP Wales team has responded to this consultation with a focus on rehab being key to the recovery of Covid patients. We also raised our concerns about the need for rehab services across other patient groups.

- b. **Welsh Government consultation on language regulations for the HCPC.**

The CSP has responded favourably to the Welsh Language Standards for healthcare regulators and the Professional Standards Authority. We highlighted the need to resource this properly.

- c. **Welsh Labour Manifesto**

The second stage of the Welsh Labour policy development process for the 2021 Senedd elections is still open and accepting submissions. The consultation documents are available on the Welsh Labour website in both Welsh and English using the following link:

<https://www.welshlabour.wales/welsh-labour-policy-process/>

Please bear in mind that these documents were drafted before the current crisis. However, the basic issues for discussion are unchanged.

6. Forward Work Programme –May to September 2020

The next few months will require us to be flexible and adapt to new ways of working. Most of our regular meetings with Welsh Government and stakeholders are continuing virtually, and we are awaiting further information on events we were planning to attend later in the year. We will keep you up to date with our work and plans as soon as we are in a position to do so. In the meantime, please keep in touch and use the CSP services that are available to members if you have any questions.

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