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**From:** Rachel Podolak [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=BC3CE6CB850D4FD799E6573B90574361-RACHEL PODO]  
**Sent:** 22/03/2020 13:34:50  
**To:** Andrew.Goodall@Gov.Wales; Peter.Saul@rcgp.org.uk; mair.hopkin@rcgp.org.uk  
**CC:** David Bailey; **PD**  
**Subject:** RE: In confidence: Communication to Gps  
**Attachments:** BMA Letter to PM re PPE testing.pdf

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for advance sight of this communication.

**PPE**

Before we list our comments on the letter, it is essential that we gain clarity on the PPE guidance for GPs and other doctors/healthcare professionals in Wales. I attach a letter from Chaand to the Prime Minister for information. Whilst I do not feel a public dispute on this would be helpful in Wales, we must insist on PPE being supplied in line with the WHO guidance and latest research as follows:

- Health care workers involved in the direct care of patients should use the following PPE: gowns, gloves, medical mask, and eye protection (goggles or face shield).
- Specifically, for aerosol-generating procedures (e.g. tracheal intubation, non-invasive ventilation, tracheostomy, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, manual ventilation before intubation, bronchoscopy) health care workers should use respirators, eye protection, gloves and gowns; aprons should also be used if gowns are not fluid resistant.

If there is an issue with supply but all efforts are being made to secure, that would be understood. A confirmatory paragraph in the letter and public statement on this would provide an enormous amount of reassurance to NHS staff, who are going above and beyond to support the response to the pandemic. We will be writing to the profession this week and would be keen to refer to this position on PPE.

**The letter**

- We believe that all letters should be signed by Welsh Government/the CMO to ensure they have the weight needed to encourage patients to act.
- We support the list of high risk groups as proposed, although clarity would be welcomed on the definition of 'severe' asthma or COPD. Has Addison's disease been proactively considered for addition?
- Are there/could there be arrangements in secondary care to take calls/provide advice to GPs?
- Letter to patient could be explicit that this acts a 12 week 'sick note' for employers to reduce questions/demand on GPs.
- Letter to patient should advise that they may need to leave home for essential care.
- Please could hyperlinks to RCGP guidance be included for easy access?
- It would be helpful to see the letter to patients as you suggest. The wording re 'discussion with GP' will be important as this may not be manageable, dependent on volume, the information available to the GP and the current unprecedented demands on the service.

I would be happy to discuss any of the above. BMA Cymru Wales is absolutely committed to working with the Welsh Government, and other partners, to do everything we can to ensure that doctors are supported to be able to look after the people of Wales to the best of their ability.

Best wishes,  
David and Rachel

**Rachel Podolak**

Cyfarwyddwr Cenedlaethol (Cymru)/ National Director (Wales)

BMA Cymru Wales

**Y Gymdeithas Feddygol Brydeinig/British Medical Association**

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**From:** Andrew.Goodall@Gov.Wales <Andrew.Goodall@Gov.Wales>

**Sent:** 22 March 2020 09:00

**To:** **Personal Data** Rachel Podolak <RPodolak@bma.org.uk>; Peter.Saul@rcgp.org.uk;  
mair.hopkin@rcgp.org.uk

**Subject:** In confidence: Communication to Gps

Dear all

You will be aware of uk announcement overnight for identification of patients for a very specific group of patients defined by CMOs as vulnerable.

We have a similar process in place in wales aligned to england in order to a. Make GPs aware of this sub-set of high risk vulnerable patients b. Ensure there is a community offer from local authorities working with third sector to ensure they have a contact, can access food deliveries and medication if needed.

Many of these patients are likely to be known to the system or have support arrangements in place and highly likely known to GPs. But it is an additional offer of community support for the forthcoming weeks.

I wanted you to see the draft letter for wales as it makes very clear the patient definition and im aware gps will already have been considering at risk patients in their practices.

It is proposed this letter goes to welsh gps tomorrow noting england are doing the same.

The letter to patients will follow - depending on the technical data process over the weekend, the template may be issued in resident practice name or cmo - but will provide the community contact for support as well as explain their condition and guidance on protecting themselves. Gps will also be given the details of the relevant patients to the practice separate from the general letter.

We are just reviewing the attached - some final revisions for welsh context. And there are some changes in the equivalent english letter which we are tracking today.

However attached is the letter as close as possible to english draft for consistency.

Any reflections on content or process welcome. I know you are fully aware of the exceptional and fast moving circumstances.

Best wishes.

Andrew

Dr Andrew Goodall CBE

Director General Health and Social Services/ NHS Wales Chief Executive

Health and Social Services Group

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