



Our ref: WQ50432

Russell George MS  
Senedd Constituency Member for Montgomeryshire

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Dear Russell,

Thank you for your recent Written Question asking me if I am aware of any breach of do not resuscitate orders during the pandemic.

In Wales, we do not use the term "Do Not Resuscitate Order". 'Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation' (DNACPR) decisions and forms are advisory documents; they are not 'orders'. Resuscitation is a wider encompassing term than the very specific intervention of CPR.

CPR in palliative and end of life situations is usually unsuccessful and can lead to significant trauma for both patients and relatives. Many patients now ask for this treatment to be withheld in future, should the need arise, but still receive all other treatments including chemotherapy, antibiotics etc. Anyone involved in sensitive discussion about future wishes regarding CPR, should adhere to the guidelines set out in the All Wales DNACPR policy, which is a policy open to the public, containing multiple information resources. This policy and its wrap-around education material, including resources for patients and the public, is subject to ongoing review, and has also been subject to equality and protected characteristics impact assessments.

I am aware that there have been some high profile media reports of blanket DNACPRs being applied and have been notified of some isolated incidents where it is alleged that DNACPR policy has not been followed. The Welsh Government takes these allegations very seriously and in each case has acted promptly to investigate and seek confirmation of the governance and assurance processes in place within the relevant health board to ensure these decisions are taken in line with extant clinical guidance.

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**Irrelevant &**

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.