



Carers Strategies (Wales) Measure 2010 – Draft Regulations and Guidance

Policy Briefing Note

The Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) has issued a consultation on the Regulations and Guidance that will be issued to relevant authorities to ensure that carers get appropriate information and advice - <http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/healthsocialcare/carers/?lang=en>

The consultation period closes on 23.06.2011

Key points in the new Measure:

- For the first time, there will be a new legislative duty on the NHS to provide information and support to carers. The vital role they play in identifying carers and in providing them with information and support at an early stage has been recognised.
- Local Health Boards (LHBs) will be designated as the “lead authority” to prepare and publish the strategy. Carers should be consulted at the beginning of the process. They will also be expected to work with Local Authorities and other statutory organisations to formulate and implement the strategy.
- The strategy must set out how each of the relevant partner organisations will work together to achieve the strategies aims
- The strategy must set out how consultation with carers is carried out.
- The LHB must submit its first strategy on its own behalf and on behalf of its partner organisations to Ministers by 30.10.2012.
- The strategy must cover a three year period and must be reviewed after 18 months.
- Each year the LHB must produce an Annual Report to Ministers explaining how they are implementing and monitoring the strategy.
- If any proposals are made to substantially amend the strategy, they must submit a draft amended version to Ministers for approval.

Key points in the Guidance and overall objectives of the strategy

The overall objectives of each strategy are to ensure that organisations, initially the NHS work in partnership with carers, patients, NHS staff, Local Authorities, the voluntary sector and private sector to ensure:-

- Identification of carers



- Provision of relevant, up to date, targeted information to carers at every point of their journey through the NHS
- Carers are informed of their right to an independent assessment of their needs
- Where patient consent is withheld, carers are provided with as much information as possible without breaching patient confidentiality
- That NHS staff, at a minimum, are able to signpost carers they come across to appropriate, targeted information and advice
- Young carers are recognised as a distinct group, with specific needs, but are recognised first and foremost as young people
- Older carers are recognised as a distinct group with specific needs
- Carer awareness is mainstreamed throughout the NHS

The key measurable outcomes of an effective strategy will be:

- Carers are identified at first point of contact with the Organisation and note is taken of their age, ethnicity and other equality issues which may require particular input
- Carers are informed of their potential right to an assessment of their support needs as carers under the Carers (Recognition and Services) Act 1995 and the Carers and Disabled Children's Act 2000
- Carers are well informed of the process and procedures of hospital admission and discharge and are fully involved in decisions taken at these key stages
- Carers are provided with targeted information based on their individual needs

Where you come in

The Welsh Assembly Government would also like to receive examples of services and practice that benefit you. If there is a service in your area that:

- Provides relevant and timely information and advice
- Operates effective consultation processes that fully involve you in decisions regarding the person you look after
- Provides effective training for staff to better assist you to carry out your caring role
- Provides effective training for you to better assist you to carry out their caring role

then the Welsh Assembly Government wants to know about them. The examples will then be considered for inclusion in the final issued Guidance.

Equally we would also suggest, if you have examples of where things could have been done better that you include these. If you also have examples of any significant gaps in provision of information from the NHS or lack of services that would support you in your caring role, please also include these.

Responses should be returned to:
Sarah Austin, Disability and Carers Branch, Adult Social Services Policy Division, Welsh Assembly Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NQ **by 23.06.2011.**



Who is Carers UK?

Carers give so much to society yet as a consequence of caring they experience ill health, poverty and discrimination. Carers UK is an organisation of carers fighting to end this injustice. We will not stop until people recognise the true value of carers' contribution to society and carers get the practical, financial and emotional support they need. Carers UK is here to improve carers' lives.

- We fight for equality for carers. We want carers to have the same right as everyone else to an ordinary life – a fair level of income, access to support to protect their health and well being and access to the world of work, leisure and education.
- We seek to empower carers. We want carers to be actively involved in the design, development and delivery of services. We want carers to be recognised and involved as key partners in the provision of health and social care services.

Carers UK achieves this by:

- campaigning for the changes that make a real difference for carers
- providing information and advice to carers about their rights and how to get support
- mobilising carers and supporters to influence decision-makers
- gathering hard evidence about what needs to change
- transforming the understanding of caring so that carers are valued and not discriminated against.

Carers UK Research

Carers UK has produced extensive research on all issues affecting carers. To receive a copy of our publications catalogue please contact our publication order line on 020 7566 7626 or to download free PDF versions of our research reports and publications, visit www.carersuk.org

Become an Affiliate Member of Carers UK

For as little as £50 per year organisations can ensure they are kept in touch with the latest developments and information on carers and caring. Call 020 7378 4931 to speak to our membership manager or join online at www.carersuk.org/Professionals

Training and consultancy service

Carers UK runs training days for professionals working with carers. The courses, run by leading lawyers, policy experts and practitioners, range from introductory or advanced community care law, to carers' benefits, advocacy, etc. Visit www.carersuk.org/Professionals or call the Carers UK Training Unit on 020 7378 4942.

Carers UK's consultancy service provides organisations with the information they need to develop their work with carers. Our experienced consultants can review carers' services, develop strategies to improve provision for carers and help to improve the way that carers are



consulted in planning strategies and services, reviewing employment practices and helping employers develop carer friendly practices, ensuring that all work done is based on consultation with carers and other interested parties.



Carers UK Advice & Information Service

Carers UK provides high quality advice and information to carers and the professionals who support carers. This is available through our websites, booklets, factsheets and our Carers UK's Adviceline. Carers UK's Adviceline is staffed by experts and has years of experience of dealing with the problems carers face. We provide information and advice on:

- benefits and tax credits
- carers employment rights
- carers' assessments
- the services available for carers
- how to complain effectively and challenge decisions.

Call 0808 808 7777

(Open Wednesday and Thursday 10am-12pm and 2pm-4pm. Answerphone at other times).

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Legal information

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