

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff

25 August 2020

Consultation on the Legislative Consent Memorandum for the Medicines and Medical Devices Bill**BMA Cymru Wales response**

BMA Cymru Wales notes the Senedd's Health, Social Care and Sport Committee is currently carrying out a consultation on the Legislative Consent Memorandum relating to Clause 16 of the Medicines and Medical Devices Bill making its way through the UK Parliament.

We welcome the opportunity to provide the Committee with an update on the views of our members in Wales on this matter.

We note that Clause 16 seeks to make regulations for a database of information in relation to medical devices to be established and managed by NHS Digital, which previously had no remit in relation to Wales.

Implementing a pan-UK model will allow for a greater amount of information and data to be available to Wales, and across the rest of the UK, than would be the case if Wales were to maintain its own set of information and data.

With a population of just over 3 million, Wales has very few people when compared to England with a population of over 50 million. For Wales alone to contribute enough information on medical devices for it to provide a significant sample would take a much greater amount of time than if Wales were to contribute to a UK-wide list.

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Therefore, the proposals as set out in Clause 16 of the Medicines and Medical Devices Bill, if given consent by the Senedd, would improve the safety of patients in Wales.

Furthermore, by contributing to, and sharing in the consideration of, UK-wide information, Welsh patients will benefit from the additional data that can be considered for patient demographics which may be under-represented in Wales compared to other parts of the United Kingdom.

BMA Cymru Wales believes that the sharing of expertise and knowledge within the medical profession is crucial if patient safety is to be maintained and build upon. Therefore, in addition to this, BMA Cymru Wales will continue to call for appropriate investment in compatible IT systems across all sectors of healthcare and health boards in Wales so that, where appropriate, information can be safely shared to improve patient safety and experience as well as improve the workload of healthcare staff.