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NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg
University Health Board

Our Ref: PR/JJ/cw

Date: 24th March 2016

ABMU Health Board
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Private and Confidential

Mr William Powell AM
Chair of the Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dear Mr Powell

Re: P-04-663 Food in Welsh Hospitals

In response to your petition letter dated 29th February 2016 regarding the standards of food in hospitals in Wales, our reply is outlined below.

Nutritionally vulnerable and chronically sick patients make up the vast number of inpatients within our hospital population. Studies have shown that approximately 40% of patients admitted to hospital were under nourished on admission and two thirds of all patients lose weight during their hospital stay.

Therefore in hospital we must provide meals to support people who are ill, malnourished or have long term chronic illnesses.

Within ABM we believe that nutrition is a key part of every patients care package. The Health Board's Caterers, Dietetic and Nursing staff are working together with the lead procurement dieticians through the All Wales Menu Framework to ensure all patient menus meet the Welsh Government Food and Fluid Standards for Hospital Inpatients 2011.

This includes meeting the nutritional needs of the diverse hospital population from children with cancer, adults with bowel cancer patients to elderly patients with stroke or dementia. Improving the quality of food and drink served to patients in our hospitals remains a key

• Chairman/Cadeirydd: **Professor Andrew Davies**

• Chief Executive/ Prif Weithredydd: **Mr Paul Roberts**

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Bwrdd Iechyd ABM yw enw gweithredu Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol Prifysgol Abertawe Bro Morgannwg

ABM University Health Board is the operational name of Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Local Health Board

www.abm.wales.nhs.uk

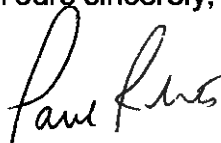
priority to the Health Board and Welsh Government as it is a major contributor to patients' wellbeing and improves recovery times.

With regard to identifying patients who have had bowel surgery, all patients should be asked about their dietary preference on admission, or at pre-assessment, this is included as part of the Nursing assessment documented by the ward nurses who should also consider a nutrition risk assessment undertaken to identify any patients risk of malnutrition to ensure appropriate care is provided. In relation to particular requirements, the requirements would be highlighted if appropriate to dieticians and the Catering Department. Implications of their particular surgery and then these requirements can be accommodated through the catering service.

In addition there are a large number of patients who are on therapeutic diets who have significant restrictions as a result of their medical conditions so it is our aim to offer a balanced diet where patients can choose from a variety of dishes to suit their personal preferences and needs.

In summary within ABMU Health Board general menus and therapeutic options are available and we would hope that liaison between the patient, nurse, caterer and dietician would provide the appropriate menu to meet the health needs of our patients.

#Yours sincerely,



PAUL ROBERTS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE