

Prof Jean White CBE MStJ
Swyddfa'r Prif Swyddog Nyrsio
Office of the Chief Nursing Officer



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Professor Chris Jones
Dirprwy Brif Swyddog Meddygol
Deputy Chief Medical Officer
Dirprwy Gyfarwyddwr Gofal Iechyd Poblogaeth
Deputy Director Population Healthcare Division

Chief Executives Health Boards/Trusts
Medical Directors
Nurse Directors
Directors of Public Health

We are writing to reiterate the essential requirement for routine SARS-CoV-2 testing in unplanned emergency and urgent admissions to Welsh hospitals. We were concerned to discover following an investigation into a recent outbreak, that not all emergency admissions to one of our hospitals had been tested. There is a very real danger that if this requirement is not complied with then Welsh hospitals will rapidly fill with COVID-19 cases.

As we enter autumn and winter, in addition to treating patients who are ill because of COVID-19 infection and maintaining essential services, we must also endeavour to address the substantial backlog in elective procedures and diagnostics. In order to achieve this it will be essential to maintain the integrity of Covid-19 'low risk' or 'light' pathways within our hospitals. This can only be assured by ascertaining the COVID-19 infection status of all admissions and particularly those that are unplanned.

We have become increasingly aware of the significant amount of COVID-19 transmission in patients who are asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic. It is essential then that as community transmission rises, we protect our hospitals by routinely testing all admissions.

The NICE publication 'COVID-19 rapid guideline: arranging planned care in hospitals and diagnostic services' advises a SARS-CoV-2 test for all routine admissions requiring anaesthesia with decision to admit resting upon having the results available.

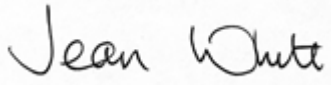
Our strategy for testing for COVID-19 in Wales (15 July) and 'A Principles Framework to assist the NHS in Wales to return urgent and planned services in hospital settings during COVID-19' (3rd June) contain the stipulation: *'Emergency Admissions: test all patients on admission. For patients who test negative, further testing will be undertaken if COVID-19 symptoms are present or develop.'*



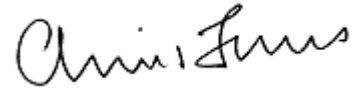
BUDDSODDWR MEWN POBL
INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Ffon/Tel: 03000 257028
Parc Cathays, Caerdydd CF10 3NQ Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NQ
Ebost/Email: PSCchiefMedicalOfficer@gov.wales

Our expectation is that all Welsh hospitals will demonstrate that they are complying with this guidance.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jean White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a light grey rectangular background behind it.

PROF JEAN WHITE CBE MSTJ
Chief Nursing Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style.

PROFESSOR CHRIS JONES
Deputy Chief Medical Officer