Partneriaeth Cydwasanaethau
Shared Services Partnership

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By Email Only:

Dyddiad / Date: 11th June 2024

Welsh Government – WHC/2024/029
Certification of Vision Impairment in Primary and Community Care

This alert has been cascaded to the following:

All Wales GP Practice Managers
All Wales GP OOHs
All Wales Sessional GPs
All Wales Pharmacists / Pharmacy Technicians
All Wales Dental Practices
All Wales HB Primary Care Managers
All Wales HB Pharmacy & Prescribing Advisors
All Wales Medial Committees
All Wales Pharmacy Committees
All Wales Dental Committees

Annwyl Gydweithwyr,

Cewch hyd i'r Cylchlythyr Iechyd Cymru diweddaraf ynghlwm: Ardystio bod gan Berson Amhariad ar y Golwg mewn Gofal Sylfaenol a Chymunedo

Rhaeadrwch yn ôl yr angen.

Llawer o ddiolch

Dear Colleagues,

Please find the latest Welsh Health Circular attached: Certification of Vision Impairment in Primary and Community Care

Please cascade as necessary.

Many Thanks

Correspondence & Questions Administrator
Government and Corporate Business Team / Tîm Busines y Llywodraeth a Corfforaethol
Health and Social Services Group / Grŵp Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Welsh Government / Llywodraeth Cymru

WHC 2024 029

WELSH HEALTH CIRCULAR

Status: COMPLIANCE

Category: POLICY

Title: Certification of Vision Impairment in Primary and Community Care

Date of Expiry / Review: N/A

Action by: **Local Health Boards** **Required by: With Immediate Effect**

Sender: Sarah O'Sullivan-Adams

Welsh Government Contacts: Sarah O'Sullivan-Adams
Head of Optometry and Audiology
Primary Care Division Email: Sarah.OSullivan-Adams@gov.wales

Enclosures: Certification of Vision Impairment Wales 2024 (CVIW 2024) Form and Explanatory notes

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg hefyd / This document is also available in Welsh
Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg / We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh

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WHC/2024/029

Title: Certification of Vision Impairment

Certification is the pre-requisite to registration with a vision impairment. People with vision impairment that meet certain criteria[1,2] are eligible to be registered with their local authority social services department as sight impaired (SI) or severely sight impaired (SSI). Registration ensures access to services and support aimed at maintaining a person's independence. In Wales, Consultant Ophthalmologists currently sign a Certificate of Vision Impairment (CVI). However, there is no legal requirement in Wales stating that only a Consultant Ophthalmologist can sign a CVI.

Recent research concluded that there is comparable agreement with regards to certification eligibility between ophthalmologists and optometrists trained and accredited to deliver low vision services, relative to a consensus panel[3]. Accordingly, a new All-Wales patient pathway will be introduced that will enable patients to be certified as visually impaired by Wales Eye Care Services (WECS) optometrists who are low vision accredited and have completed an approved training module as determined by Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) and outlined in WECS Standard Operating Procedures. This will be in addition to Consultant Ophthalmologists certifying patients. This new approach aligns to the principles of prudent healthcare and our commitments in *A Healthier Wales* and *the Future Approach for Optometry Services*.

(NB Prior to optometry contract reform, the accreditation required is Eye Health Examination Wales (EHEW) plus Low Vision Service Wales).

Four changes have been made to the existing Certification of Vision Impairment Wales (CVIW) form to accommodate this:

- The heading *"To be completed by the Ophthalmologist (tick one)"* changed to *"To be completed by the Ophthalmologist/Optometrist (tick one)"*,
- Inclusion of tick boxes to indicate whether the practitioner is an ophthalmologist or optometrist,
- Inclusion of tick boxes to indicate whether certification was performed within the hospital eye service, an optometry practice or a mobile setting
- The label *"Hospital address"* changed to *"Certifiers primary hospital/optometry practice address"*

The same CVIW 2024 form will be used for certification in primary and community care and in secondary care. The patient pathway for this service can be found in the relevant clinical manuals.

1. RNIB, The criteria for certification. Available at https://www.rnib.org.uk/eye-health/registering-your-sight-loss/criteria-certification
2. Department of Health (2017) Certificate of Vision Impairment: Explanatory Notes for Consultant Ophthalmologists and Hospital Eye Clinic Staff in England. Available at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/637590/CVI_guidance.pdf
3. Bartlett, R., Jones, H., Williams, G. et al. Agreement between ophthalmologists and optometrists in the certification of vision impairment. *Eye* 35, 433–440 (2021). https://doi.org/10.1038/s41433-020-0860-x

WHC 2024 029

CYLCHLYTHYR IECHYD CYMRU

Statws: CYDYMFFURFIO

Categori: POLISI

Teitl: Ardystio bod gan Berson Amhariad ar y Golwg mewn Gofal Sylfaenol a Chymunedol

Dyddiad Dod i ben / Dyddiad Dod i ben: Amherthnasol

I'w weithredu gan: Byrddau Iechyd Lleol **Angen gweithredu erbyn:** Ar unwaith

Anfonwr: Sarah O'Sullivan-Adams

Enw(au) Cyswllt GIGC Llywodraeth Cymru:

Sarah O'Sullivan-Adams
Pennaeth Optometreg ac Awdioleg
Yr Is-adran Gofal Sylfaenol E-bost: Sarah.OSullivan-Adams@llyw.cymru

Dogfennau amgaeedig:

Ffurflen Tystysgrif Amhariad ar y Golwg Cymru 2024 (CVIW 2024) a'r Nodiadau Esboniadol

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Saesneg hefyd / This document is also available in English.
Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg

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Teitl: Ardystio bod gan Berson Amhariad ar y Golwg

Mae cael ardystiad yn rhagamod ar gyfer cofrestru gydag amhariad ar y golwg. Mae pobl sydd ag amhariad ar y golwg sy'n bodloni meini prawf penodol[1,2] yn gymwys i gael eu cofrestru gydag adran gwasanaethau cymdeithasol eu hawdurdod lleol fel unigolion sydd ag amhariad ar y golwg (SI) neu sydd ag amhariad difrifol ar y golwg (SSI). Drwy gofrestru, bydd unigolion yn cael mynediad at wasanaethau a chymorth sydd wedi'u cynllunio i'w helpu i aros yn annibynnol. Yng Nghymru, ar hyn o bryd, Offthalmolegwyr Ymgynghorol sy'n llofnodi'r Tystysgrif Amhariad ar y Golwg (CVI). Fodd bynnag, nid oes gofyniad cyfreithiol yng Nghymru sy'n datgan mai dim ond Offthalmolegydd Ymgynghorol all lofnodi'r Tystysgrif Amhariad ar y Golwg.

Daeth ymchwil ddiweddar i'r casgliad, o safbwynt nodi cymhwystra unigolion i gael tystysgrif, fod cytundeb tebyg rhwng offthalmolegwyr a phanel consensws o'i gymharu â'r cytundeb rhwng optometryddion sydd wedi'u hyfforddi a'u hachredu i ddarparu gwasanaethau golwg gwan a'r panel consensws[3]. Yn unol â hynny, bydd llwybr cleifion newydd i Gymru gyfan yn cael ei gyflwyno a fydd yn galluogi cleifion i gael eu hardystio yn unigolion sydd ag amhariad ar y golwg gan optometryddion Gwasanaeth Gofal Llygaid Cymru sydd wedi'u hachredu i ddarparu gwasanaethau golwg gwan ac sydd wedi cwblhau modiwl hyfforddiant cymeradwy, fel y pennir gan Addysg a Gwella Iechyd Cymru ac fel yr amlinellir yng Ngweithdrefnau Gweithredu Safonol Gwasanaeth Gofal Llygaid Cymru. Bydd hyn yn ychwanegol at yr ardystiad ar gyfer cleifion a gynhelir gan Offthalmolegwyr Ymgynghorol. Mae'r dull newydd hwn yn gyson ag egwyddorion gofal iechyd darbodus a'n hymrwymiadau yn *Cymru Iachach* a *Gofal Iechyd Llygaid GIG Cymru: Dull Gweithredu ar gyfer Gwasanaethau Optometreg yn y Dyfodol*.

(Noder: Cyn diwygio'r contract optometreg, achrediad Archwiliadau Iechyd Llygaid Cymru ynghyd â Gwasanaeth Golwg Gwan Cymru sy'n angenrheidiol).

Mae pedwar newid wedi'u gwneud i'r ffurflen Tystysgrif Amhariad ar y Golwg Cymru (CVIW) bresennol er mwyn gallu rhoi'r drefn newydd ar waith:

- Mae'r pennawd "*I'w gwblhau gan yr Offthalmolegydd (ticiwch un)"* wedi cael ei newid yn "*I'w gwblhau gan yr Offthalmolegydd/Optometrydd (ticiwch un)"*
- Mae blychau dewis opsiwn wedi'u cynnwys i nodi p'un a ydy'r ymarferydd yn offthalmolegydd neu'n optometrydd
- Mae blychau dewis opsiwn wedi'u cynnwys i nodi a gafodd yr ardystiad ei gynnal mewn gwasanaeth llygaid yn yr ysbyty, practis optometreg neu leoliad symudol
- Mae'r label *"Cyfeiriad yr ysbyty"* wedi cael ei newid yn "*Cyfeiriad prif weithle y sawl sy'n ardystio (ysbyty/ practis optometreg)"*

Bydd yr un ffurflen CVIW 2024 yn cael ei defnyddio ar gyfer ardystio mewn gofal sylfaenol a chymunedol a gofal eilaidd. Mae'r llwybr cleifion ar gyfer y gwasanaeth hwn i'w weld yn y llawlyfrau clinigol perthnasol.

1. RNIB, The criteria for certification. Ar gael yn https://www.rnib.org.uk/eye-health/registering-your-sight-loss/criteria-certification
2. Adran Iechyd Llywodraeth y DU (2017), Certificate of Vision Impairment: Explanatory Notes for Consultant Ophthalmologists and Hospital Eye Clinic Staff in England. Ar gael yn https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/637590/CVI_guidance.pdf
3. Bartlett, R., Jones, H., Williams, G. et al. Agreement between ophthalmologists and optometrists in the certification of vision impairment. Eye 35, 433–440 (2021). https://doi.org/10.1038/s41433-020-0860-x