

Health and Social Services Committee

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Meeting date: Thursday 26 October 2006

Venue: Committee Room 2, Senedd, National Assembly for Wales

Title: Additional Information on CaNISC

I was grateful for the opportunity to attend the Health and Social Services Committee meeting on Wednesday, 11th October, to answer questions on CaNISC. Following informal discussion after the meeting, I am writing to address an issue that was not raised in committee, which is the intention of the Assembly to mandate the use of CaNISC from April 1st 2007.

The CaNISC Board endorse this action which will benefit all newly diagnosed cancer patients in Wales and will ensure that every trust contributes to the cancer patient's record so that a complete, electronic, summary will be available, wherever the patient receives hospital care, on a 24/7 basis.

There are two reasons why this is not the current situation and why mandaton is so important. The first, which was discussed by the committee, is that two of the largest Trusts in Wales register only a small number of their patients on CaNISC, and neither use CaNISC to report their SaFF Cancer Wait Times. Although it is to be hoped that this will change, there is no guarantee and no timescale. The second concerns the completeness of information that is collected. The focus in some trusts has been to collect information necessary to produce the SaFF CWT from CaNISC, at the expense of recording the clinical information necessary for patient care

In CaNISC, we have suggested that only the collection of core information should be mandated and that, in time, this might be extended to include additional data such as those required for National Audits sponsored by the Healthcare Commission, which is a Designed for Life milestone in March 2008. The *raison d'être* of CaNISC to raise standards of patient care through improved communication, audit, benchmarking and performance management, on an all-Wales basis, can only be realised when all Trusts are committed to the system.

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