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Petitions Committee

Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff

3rd March 2022

Petition P-06-1217 Open Long Covid one stop medical hubs/clinics

BMA Cymru Wales submission

BMA Cymru Wales requests that this submission be considered by the Committee during its next discussion of Petition P-06-1217.

While the petition proposes that Long-Covid hubs are opened across Wales as they provide greater expertise that is available for patients from primary care doctors, it is important that the Committee has details of the range of support and expertise available from doctors in primary care.

As GPs are one of the arms of primary care, for any Long-Covid patients their GP will be their first port of call.

This is fitting as, with access to a variety of specialists, GPs are well placed to refer patients to further specialist consultants- including specialist cardiovascular, respiratory, and immunology- as and when they may be needed. This process allows GPs to ensure patients receive the full package of care and support they need for their condition, while at the same time allowing their GP to continue to monitor the patient's overall health.

For patients with a complex variety of conditions, which can be the case for patients suffering from Long-Covid, referral to a multidisciplinary clinic with a level of centralised expertise could be beneficial in ensuring that the patient receives appropriate care and assistance. Where this does take place, a simple referral method should be in place to allow GPs to ensure patients are referred in a timely manner.

Cyfarwyddwr Cenedlaethol (Cymru)/National director (Wales):

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Even after referral to a multidisciplinary clinic, oversight from the patient's GP will nonetheless remain an important pillar of the support that they receive as they recover and need access to further treatments, assistance, and specialisms.

Therefore while multidisciplinary clinics have a role to play in assisting and supporting patients with Long-Covid, there remains a role for their GP both from the outset and throughout the process.

We hope this assists the Committee in your consideration of this petition. If you would like a further update on the role that GPs and primary care can play, BMA Cymru Wales is of course willing to assist.