

29 August 2012

Dear Chair,

Introduction of all Wales infant feeding data definitions and reporting requirements from Child Health System (CCH2000)

The Welsh Government is committed to the effective capture of robust data and timely use of administrative information to support better decision making in relation to early years care. The availability and sharing of data and information is vital in ensuring that organisations and professionals have the right information, at the right time and in a central place to deliver effective services for parents and children.

Currently, infant feeding data has been recorded on the Child Health System in accordance with local practice but in a non-standard way which does not allow benchmarking. This has also meant that the all Wales statistics based on Child Health System data have been incomplete and of variable quality and comparability.

The development and implementation of an all Wales data set is a recommendation in *Investing in a better start: Promoting Breastfeeding in Wales*. Subsequently, new infant feeding data definitions were developed by the Breastfeeding Strategy Implementation Data subgroup and health professionals working in this area and have been piloted in Aneurin Bevan Health Board. As the collection of this data was successful, the piloted data definitions are to be rolled out across the rest of Wales.

The following Data Set Change Notice has been issued to support this official Letter and outline how the Child Health System is to be used to record this information:

DSCN 2012 / 07

From the Chief Nursing Officer

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| Welsh Government Cathays Park Cardiff CF10 3NQ | Llywodraeth Cymru Parc Cathays Caerdydd CF10 3NQ |
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E-mail distribution to:
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Cc:
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Community Child Health Information Managers

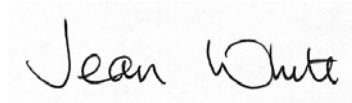
For further information:
Lifestyle Change Branch
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The data collected as a result of this change will provide the information needed to report against the performance measures for breastfeeding, and will form part of the Maternity Outcome Indicators and Performance Measures that were issued on 9 July 2012 to NHS LHBs and Trusts, as highlighted in *A Strategic Vision for Maternity Services in Wales*. It will enable monitoring of the effectiveness of breastfeeding support in maternity services in Wales, and support Health Boards to develop quality services locally for women and babies. At a national level it will enable the NHS Wales Informatics Service and Welsh Government to process the data and publish meaningful statistics.

Although re-organising local processes inevitably takes some time, every effort should be made to start collecting and recording the changed definitions as soon as possible after 1 September.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact:
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Email: Gwyneth.thomas@wales.gsi.gov.uk

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jean White". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a light grey rectangular box.

Professor Jean White
Chief Nursing Officer