



ACADEMI O GOLEGAU BRENHINOL YNG NGHYMRU
ACADEMY OF ROYAL COLLEGES IN WALES

Healthcare Inspectorate [Wales](#)
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Concordat Between Bodies Inspecting, Regulating, and Auditing Health and Social Care in Wales

Background

External review bodies inspecting, regulating, and auditing health and social care in Wales have developed and agreed a set of principles and practices (a Concordat) to support the improvement of services for patients, service users and carers and to eliminate any unnecessary burdens of external review. The Concordat is attached to this letter.

The Wales Concordat

The Concordat, which is a voluntary agreement between the autonomous external review bodies, sets out the following practices :

- External reviews are co-ordinated with other reviews and collections of data
- External reviews of healthcare focus on the experience of patients, other service users and carers
- External reviews support improvements in quality and performance
- External review bodies continuously improve their methods
- External reviews are independent, consistent and fair
- External reviews are targeted and proportionate
- External reviews are transparent and accountable
- External review bodies use co-ordinated and proportionate methods of enforcement

- External reviewers are suitably qualified, trained and skilled
- External review bodies continuously monitor their practices in line with the concordat

Central Point of Contact for Comments and Suggestions

The Welsh Assembly Government is providing the Concordat signatories with secretarial support in taking forward the implementation of the practices. A key element of this support will be to act as central point of contact for those organisations subject to external review.¹

Next Steps

A programme of work is currently being developed to ensure effective implementation of the Concordat's practices.

A key feature of the implementation programme will be the way in which practices are prioritised for implementation. Clearly, we will want to prioritise those practices, which will yield the maximum benefit at the earliest possible stage. It will, however, be vital that implementation priorities take into consideration the views of NHS and social care providers in Wales. We welcome views and comments from those bodies subject to external review on implementation priorities.

It is anticipated that an implementation programme will be published by September 2005.

Wales Concordat Steering Group May 2005

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