Coleg Nyrsio Brenhinol Cymru
Royal College of Nursing Wales

Royal College of Nursing
Ty Maeth
King George V Drive East
Cardiff
CF14 4XZ

Helen Whyley, RN, MA
Executive Director, RCN Wales

Telephone 02920 680703
Email helen.whyley@rcn.org.uk

Derek Walker
Future Generations Commissioner for Wales
Office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales
Tramshed Tech
Pendyris Street
Cardiff CF11 6BH

Tuesday 28 January 2025

Dear Derek Walker

On Thursday 16 January, the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) published a harrowing report exposing the devastating impact of corridor care on patients and healthcare professionals in hospitals in Wales and across the UK. Thousands of RCN members responded to a short survey within just days, and the report presents their words raw, unedited and unredacted:

> "Unable to safely and with dignity attend to patient who required personal care as no curtains or screens available. Happened during night shift and had to move the patient into the corridor away from other patients. All staff upset this is no way to treat people."

Following this, on Tuesday 28 January, RCN Wales published a policy report setting out our recommendations for action to end corridor care in Wales. They include classifying treatment in a chair lasting over 24 hours as a Never Event, as well as a national review of NHS Wales capacity followed up by investment targeted where it is needed most.

Continued.....

Coleg Nyrsio Brenhinol y Deyrnas Gyfunol/Royal College of Nursing of the United Kingdom
20 Cavendish Square
Lundain/London W1G 0RN
Ffôn/Telephone
+44 (0) 20 7409 3333
RCN Direct 0345 772 6100
rcn.org.uk

Coleg Nyrsio Brenhinol Cymru Swyddfa Gogledd Cymru/ Royal College of Nursing Wales
Ty Maeth, Rhodfa Ddwyreiniol/
Brenin George V/
King George V Drive East
Caerdydd/Cardiff
CF14 4XZ

Llywydd/President
Bejoy Sebastian

Ysgrifennydd Cyffredinol a Phrif Weithredwr/ General Secretary & Chief Executive
Yr Athro/Professor Nicola Ranger

Cyfarwyddwr Gweithredol Coleg Nyrsio Brenhinol Cymru/ Executive Director of RCN Wales
Helen Whyley

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Ei Fawrhydi'r Brenin Siarl III/HM King Charles III

Mae'r RCN yn cynrychioli nrysys a nyrsio, gan hyrwyddo rhagoriaeth mewn arfer a llunio polisiau iechyd

The RCN represents nurses and nursing, promotes excellence in practice and shapes health policies

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE
Rydym yn buddsoddi mewn llesiant Arian

Mae'r Coleg Nyrsio Brenhinol yn Goleg Brenhinol a sefydlwyd drwy Siarter Frenhinol ac Undeb Llafur Cofestr Arbennig a sefydlwyd a dan Ddeddf Undebau Llafur (Cydgrynhoi) 1992.

The RCN is a Royal College set up by Royal Charter and a Special Register Trade Union established under the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

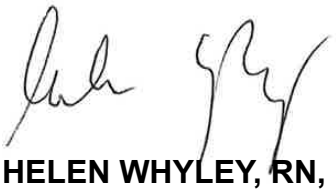
Corridor Care—the practice of treating patients in hallways, chairs, or other inappropriate settings—has become a daily reality for many frontline health care workers. Overcrowded facilities, insufficient resources, and high patient demand have forced nurses and other staff to deliver care in environments that compromise safety, dignity, and quality. This has now reached a crisis point.

Patients' lives and safety are at risk now, but it is future generations who will feel the harshest consequences of inaction from the Welsh Government, and all health boards and NHS trusts, to end corridor care. Its normalisation harms not only patients, but also our health service, by eroding the standard of care that we accept. Nursing staff work tirelessly day and night to provide the highest standard of care for patients. Corridor care severely hinders their ability to do that, and no amount of skill or effort can render it tolerable for them or their patients.

I have written to the Chief Executives of all health boards and NHS trusts in Wales, as well as to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care urging them to take immediate action to end corridor care.

I would be grateful for your support and would like to meet with you to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely,



HELEN WHYLEY, RN, MA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RCN WALES

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