



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan AM
First Minister/Prif Weinidog Cymru

Cardiff Bay
Cardiff CF99 1NA
029 2089 8782
GTN 1208
Fax: 029 2089 8198

Bae Caerdydd
Caerdydd CF99 1NA
029 2089 8782
GTN: 1208
Rhif Cyflunydd: 029 2089 8198

Our ref/Ein cyf:MB/FM/5263/03

David Lloyd AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

5 November 2003

Annwyl Dai

At Plenary on 23rd September, I promised to write to you to explain the detail of our target on access to general medical services and how it fits with the New Contract. On 15 October the Minister for Health and Social Services made a statement to Plenary as part of the debate on enhanced services and I know you took part in that debate.

The target is defined as "Patients will be able to access an appropriate member of the primary care team within 24 hours of requesting an appointment and much sooner in an emergency". This definition is also reflected in the new GMS contract. It is the new contract that provides the mechanism for delivering this policy. Access is one of the new enhanced services. The Directed Enhanced Service (DES) for access provides funding to enable practices to structure their work to deliver this commitment. The DES provides for patients to see a member of the primary care team who is competent to deal with the patient's clinical needs. Sometimes that will be a GP, but if appropriate, it could be a practice nurses, allied health professionals or other health care staff within the practice. Receptionists would not count for this purpose.

I hope this has clarified the position.

Yn ddiffwrth

Rhodri

