

## **National Assembly For Wales**

### **Report By The Health and Social Services Committee On**

- i. the National Health Service (Miscellaneous Amendments Concerning Independent Nurse Prescribers, Supplementary Prescribers, Nurse Independent Prescribers and Pharmacist Independent Prescribers) (Wales) Regulations 2007;**
- ii. National Health Service (Free Prescriptions and Charges for Drugs and Appliances) (Wales) Regulations 2007; and**
- iii. The Pharmaceutical Services (Advanced and Enhanced Services) (Wales) (Amendment) Directions 2006**

1. The Committee had identified these three items of secondary legislation for scrutiny and they were submitted to the Committee for the meeting on 15 November. They were handled in accordance with the protocol for dealing with secondary legislation agreed by the Committee on 11 June 2003, whereby Members notify in advance any queries or amendments they wish to make to the Regulations.

2. Members did not propose any amendments, but Jenny Randerson AM raised five points of clarification all of which relate to item i, the National Health Service (Miscellaneous Amendments Concerning Independent Nurse Prescribers, Supplementary Prescribers, Nurse Independent Prescribers and Pharmacist Independent Prescribers) (Wales) Regulations 2007.

3. The queries and the Minister's response are as follows:

**i. What proportion of pharmacists and nurses are currently on the register enabling them to prescribe certain drugs?**

Response: The Welsh Assembly Government does not hold figures, but it is thought that there are currently 400 to 500 people in Wales registered.

**ii. What plans are there to increase the numbers registered to do so?**

Response: This would be a matter for the commissioning bodies.

**iii. What plans does the Welsh Assembly Government have to advertise the availability of extended prescribing once the regulations come into force?**

Response: The Assembly Government will not be publicising the changes. As services are reconfigured and more nurses run clinics, patients will be made aware of the prescribing facility. Independent prescribers may choose to advertise.

**iv. Referring to the Financial Implications Paper HSS (2)-16-06 (p2a) is the Minister satisfied that the additional costs can be accommodated within the supplementary Prescribers Budget. Does the Minister intend to increase this budget next year?**

Response: There is a seven per cent uplift for drugs in the draft budget. It is not envisaged that the changes in prescribing practices will increase demand significantly.

**v. Referring to the same paper: why is a charge still being levied for optometry related prescriptions?**

Response: The regulations will allow optometrists to prescribe under the NHS, which they cannot do currently.

4. The Committee was content with the regulations as drafted.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas AM  
Chair  
November 2006