



Cynllun Cynorthwyo Gwaed
wedi'i haentio Cymru

Wales Infected Blood
Support Scheme

WIBSS NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 / Issue 1

Introducing the first Wales Infected Blood Support Scheme (WIBSS) Newsletter.

This newsletter will be updated on our website at least twice a year, or when there is specific news to tell, to keep you informed about any updates or changes to the scheme that may interest you.

THE WIBSS TEAM

WIBSS consists of a Finance Team and Welfare Rights Support Team. We can be contacted on **02920 902280**, press 1 for Finance or 2 for Welfare Rights Support or alternatively you can email WIBSS@wales.nhs.uk

Finance Team

WIBSS Scheme Manager: Mary Swiffen-Walker

Finance Officer: Stefan Dakovic (Commencing 14th September 2019)

Welfare Rights and Support

Welfare Rights Advisors: Sarah Ferrier & Rebecca O'Callaghan

Support Officer: Ryan Clappe

SCHEME NEWS

Enhanced Payment Scheme Stage 1+

WIBSS have now introduced a stage 1 + category for those beneficiaries with Chronic Hepatitis C (stage 1) infection, who are experiencing significant mental issues or post-traumatic stress. The stage 1 + application requires no medical input, it is a self-assessment.

Beneficiaries will simply be asked if they are suffering from any mental health issues or post-traumatic stress; whether they feel these issues are related to their infection from contaminated blood or blood products; and whether the symptoms are affecting their ability to carry out day-to-day activities.

Payments for those that meet the Stage 1 + requirements will increase to the current rate for those with Advanced Hepatitis (Stage 2) infection, which is £18,833 per annum.

If you feel like this applies to you then please get in contact.

Psychological Support Scheme

WIBSS are in the process of setting up a WIBSS psychology service, we will notify you when the service is available. Once the psychology scheme is set up, it will be open to beneficiaries, family members and bereaved family members.

We would welcome any feedback as to how you think this service should be set up, please get in contact, as your input is valuable.

Welfare Rights

Whilst many of you have already accessed the assistance service provided by the Welfare Rights team, there may be some who are not aware of what they do. So in the coming newsletters, we hope to give you a taster of the activities undertaken by the Welfare Team.

Please get in touch, if you feel any of these may benefit you.

In the past few months, we have assisted individuals to claim additional money (this includes benefits such as Personal Independence Payment, Employment and Support Allowance, Council Tax Reduction and more) they did not know they were entitled to; we attended home appointments across the UK to assist with grant applications; we assisted with the completion of complex forms; we advocated, in person, at benefit assessments and stopped a beneficiary from being evicted from their home.

Please contact us with any query, no matter how big or small – this is your **free, confidential and impartial** service.

Benefit updates

- Personal Independence Payment (PIP) can help you with some of the extra costs if you have a long term ill-health or disability. There has been some changes made to the qualifying age of PIP. If you have any queries or need any help then please get in touch <https://www.gov.uk/pip/eligibility>