

Cynllun Cynorthwyo Gwaed
wedi'i haentio Cymru

Wales Infected Blood
Support Scheme

WIBSS NEWSLETTER

April 2022

Payments

Please see below for the new rates payable from April 1st 2022. If you have any queries, please contact us.

Ongoing Payments	WIBSS Rates April 22/23	Rate at 75% for Bereaved partners/spouses
Hep. C Stage 1	£19,498	£14,629
Enhanced Stage 1+	£29,569	£22,177
Hep. C Stage 2	£29,569	£22,177
HIV	£29,569	£22,177
Co-Infected (HIV and Stage 1)	£40,135	£30,103
Co-Infected (HIV and Stage 2)	£46,469	£34,852
Co-Infected (HIV and Stage 1+)	£46,469	£34,852
Winter fuel (to be paid in October)	£561	£561

Service Feedback

Thanks to all who contributed to our satisfaction survey. The detailed results are now available on our website.

If you would prefer a paper copy, please get in touch and we would be happy to post these out to you.



CONTACT US

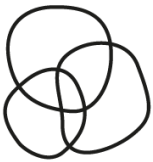
Contact WIBSS on
02920 902280 or email
wibss@wales.nhs.uk

If your call is not answered, please leave a message with your name and a contact number and we will phone you back promptly.

For Psychology and Wellbeing please email:
wibss.wellbeing@wales.nhs.uk

Recent Contact

We take your personal information seriously. If you are in any doubt about the origin of a letter requesting your personal data, that appears as though it is from WIBSS, please contact us on our direct line, **02920 902280**.



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WELFARE RIGHTS

Providing you & your family confidential advice around
Benefits, Money, Advocacy, Support and more.

Following consultation with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), your Welfare Benefits Team are now in receipt of a letter directly relating to those who receive means tested benefits. This includes those individuals receiving Universal Credit, Pension Credit, ESA (Income based), JSA (Income Based), Housing Benefit, Council Tax Reduction, Working and Child Tax Credits.

Please find a copy enclosed for your records. The DWP have requested that you keep this letter in a safe place in case you need to make a claim for benefit in the future, or if you receive any queries about payments you receive.

Although the DWP need to know about WIBSS payments, they will not include them as income or capital when they calculate your benefit. You do **not** need to tell them about any payments from the former infected blood support schemes.

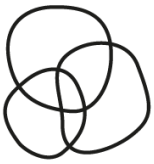
How do I notify the DWP?

You will only need to take action if you currently receive a means tested benefit **and** the DWP are **not** already aware of your WIBSS payments. **If you do not receive** Universal Credit, Pension Credit, ESA (Income based), JSA (Income Based), Housing Benefit, Council Tax Reduction, Working and Child Tax Credits, **you do not need to notify anyone.**

WIBSS wish to make the notification process as stress free as possible for you. Therefore, we have enclosed a template letter, for you to complete with your own personal circumstances and WIBSS payment amounts, which you can then post directly to the DWP. Please fill in all sections of the table, sign, print your name and date, then post to your relevant DWP department. The contact address to use varies from person to person, however the address will be on any of the letters you have received about your benefits or on www.gov.uk.

Lastly, we wish to reassure you that declaring your WIBSS payments will NOT change your benefit entitlements. All information provided to the DWP will be kept secure and confidential.

If you require any further information on this, or wish to have help notifying the DWP, completing your form or any other assistance from the Welfare Rights team, please don't hesitate to get in contact on 02920 902280.



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PSYCHOLOGY & WELLBEING TEAM

The recent WIBSS Wellbeing Focus Group (held via Zoom due to Covid restrictions) was hosted by Caroline Coffey and Julie Armytage of the WIBSS Psychology and Wellbeing Service. All WIBSS members were invited and a small but lively group attended on the evening. Members were asked for their ideas to develop the Psychology and Wellbeing Service. There was agreement around creation of peer support opportunities and bringing people together as a community, through shared experience. As a result, the following ideas were agreed, to be presented to the wider WIBSS community for their input and opinion:

- 1) Regular Zoom and/or face to face regional meetings, to allow people to come together and discuss common themes and topics around wellbeing and share individual experiences.
- 2) A group regional social event, to bring together all those infected and affected, with the aim of creating a common community. The event could potentially encompass workshops with psycho-educational opportunities, links to promote peer support and guest speakers.
- 3) The creation of a 'buddy' system, where people can register their interest in being paired with others within their community (small groups or one-to-one), to reduce isolation and create links with others through shared experience and peer support.

If you are interested in being involved in any of these, would like more information, or wish to comment on any of these ideas, please feel free to contact Julie on 02920196141 or email on; Wibss.WellBeingService@wales.nhs.uk. **We'll keep you updated on progress.**

We wish you all a lovely spring,

The WIBSS Team

