

2021 Manifesto for Medicine



Bringing medicines to *life*
Dod a meddyginiaeth i *fywyd*

Cymru | Wales

The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) exists to make the UK the best place in the world to research, develop and use new medicines. We represent companies of all sizes who invest in discovering the medicines of the future. Our members supply cutting edge treatments that improve and save the lives of millions of people. We work in partnership with Government and the NHS so patients can get new treatments faster and the NHS can plan how much it spends on medicines. Every day, we partner with organisations in the life sciences community and beyond to transform lives across the UK.

This manifesto gives political parties and the public a view from ABPI's members of how to best capitalise on the UK's life science industry and improve the health of the population following the next election. We focus on two main themes:

- Making Wales the best place in the world for patients to benefit from innovative medicines and vaccines.
- Building a thriving environment for medicine discovery, so that Wales is at the forefront of world-leading research and development of new medicines and vaccines.



Patient Access to Medicines

Continuation of the New Treatment Fund in Wales

- The ABPI welcomed the current Welsh Government's commitment to strengthen and speed up Welsh patients access to the very latest medicines. The progressive £80 million New Treatment Fund enables consistent routine adoption of all clinically and cost-effective medicines, whilst underpinning a new, collaborative approach to horizon scanning for innovative medicines in Wales.
- As we look ahead, post-2021, the ABPI encourages the next Welsh Government to maintain and develop the New Treatment Fund policy. The ABPI believes this policy has benefited patients the length and breadth of Wales through quicker access to cost and clinically effective medicines and ensures there is appropriate funding to reflect patient and service needs, based on horizon scanning and NICE / AWMSG advice.

ABPI Cymru Wales calls for the next Welsh Government to continue and regularise the ground-breaking, progressive New Treatment Fund.

Support collaborative working between the Welsh Government, NHS Wales and industry

- The ABPI supports the goal of the NHS Wales long-term plan "A Healthier Wales - our Plan for Health and Social Care" to create a service fit for the future, able to embrace innovation, improve the health and well-being of the population and provide world-class standards of care.
- While it is essential for NHS organisations and industry partners to comply with legal and regulatory guidance when working together, compliance alone does not guarantee a successful outcome in collaborative working. Encouraging everyone involved in joint working to adopt the NHS Wales Confederation / ABPI Cymru Wales toolkit would help facilitate a consistent, equitable approach to these projects.

ABPI Cymru Wales calls for the next Welsh Government to work with stakeholders, including the pharmaceutical industry, to reap the clear patient and health system benefits from working collaboratively.

Changes to AWMSG and NICE

- In January 2019, the Voluntary Scheme for Branded Medicines Pricing and Access (VPAS) was introduced across the UK, replacing the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme (PPRS). Alongside the new agreement was a commitment for NICE to increase its capacity to appraise all new active substances and significant extensions to marketing authorisations. NICE has committed to achieving this by April 2020 and this has implications for the future role of the AWMSG.

ABPI Cymru Wales asks the next Welsh Government to ensure that any changes to either AWMSG or NICE remit or processes does not disadvantage Welsh patients accessing clinical and cost-effective medicines.

Data and Value-Based Healthcare

- The ability to track and optimise patient outcomes and care is essential to ensure a sustainable, innovative healthcare system in Wales. This can only be achieved through investment in the generation of timely, accurate real-world evidence from real-world data, to support both professionals and patients in the co-production of healthcare and encourage a more innovative, research-ready NHS.

ABPI Cymru Wales asks the next Welsh Government to build on the current Digital Strategy and National Data Resource to enable value-based decision-making to become a central tenet for NHS Wales to deliver the best possible patient outcomes.

Developing new medicines and vaccines

Support the development and roll-out of emerging technologies, including advanced therapies

- In 2018-19, Wales attracted 212 commercially sponsored studies. Alongside encouraging the population to become participants in high-quality research studies, these collaborations could support the development of an innovative, progressive health system.
- Realising the opportunity presented by biomedical innovation will depend on NHS Wales, life sciences and industry stakeholders collaborating more effectively than in the past to tackle health needs, prepare for major new developments such as the Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products (ATMPs), and develop integrated health data assets that allow outcome-based planning. Success will be derived from demonstrating the ability of innovative medicines and technologies to improve people's health in real-world settings and by scaling these improvements nationally. The prize will be a virtuous circle that delivers health and economic benefits to Wales from a thriving life sciences ecosystem.
- Supply chains and treatment pathways are well-established for traditional small molecule medicines, but ATMPs will require new systems and pathways to be designed, developed and implemented. This includes the treatments themselves, as well as manufacturing facilities, IT systems, logistics solutions, support services and companion diagnostics.

ABPI Cymru Wales calls on the next Welsh Government to bring together industry and NHS Wales stakeholders to develop an adoption or implementation framework for key innovations. This should target year-on-year increases in both the numbers of commercially sponsored collaborations and studies attracted to Wales, and the number of people directly participating in research.

Prioritising patients and health security in the future UK-EU relationship

The next Welsh Government should support the building of a new partnership with the European Union that puts patients first and allows Wales to be a world leader in the delivery of new and innovative treatments. It should:

- Safeguard medicines supply for Welsh patients during and after the Transition Period.
- Ensure that medicines used to treat Welsh patients are assessed and monitored by the highest regulatory standards that protect patient safety.
- Encourage leadership in life sciences innovation and increase Wales international influence in shaping life sciences policy.

ABPI Cymru Wales calls on the next Welsh Government to prioritise health and medicines as the new context for relations with the EU develop.