



Ein cyf/Our ref EM/11906/21

David Healey
Health Sciences Centre
100 Main Street West,
5th Floor Hamilton,
ON Canada,
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5 October 2021

Dear Mr Healy,

Thank you for your letter of 9 August concerning Ian and Tania Morgan, their son Samuel and the prescription medication Citalopram.

As you are aware, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is responsible for the regulation of medicines used in the UK. This includes collecting and analysing data regarding the safety and effectiveness of all medicines.

This responsibility is not devolved to the Welsh Government. As a consequence, we have no power to introduce changes to the way medicines are presented, such as requiring a warning to be placed on the packaging of certain medications. This is a matter for the MHRA.

The MHRA is internationally recognised as being a leading authority on medicines safety, and I have confidence in the MHRA ensuring medicines are made as safe as possible for use in the UK. This includes advising on caution in the use of medicines or removing them from use where appropriate.

The position remains that the MHRA, other international regulators, and very many clinicians, consider the benefits of Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs) continue to outweigh the risks. However, where medicines are approved by the MHRA, I still expect prescribers to use their clinical judgement in determining whether a treatment is appropriate and to take steps to ensure people are appropriately followed up regularly in accordance with evidence based guidelines.

Our [Suicide and Self Harm Prevention Strategy](#) also sets out a number of priority groups particularly vulnerable to suicide and self-harm to ensure services and organisations can consider their specific needs in the development of approaches.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Talk to Me Too sets out the Strategic approach in Wales but we also have regional suicide and self-harm prevention partnerships in place to develop local approaches in response to need. These partnerships include health, local authorities, the police and the third sector. We have also appointed a National Suicide Prevention Co-ordinator and three regional co-ordinators to strengthen the arrangements for partnership working.

I have replied directly to the family who may wish to share the reply with you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services