The NHS Wales Awards 2014 are now open – and waiting for you to enter!

Now in its seventh year, the awards provide a great opportunity to celebrate the innovative work of organisations and teams across NHS Wales to deliver excellent patient care.

This year the Awards will be bigger and better than ever before with some exciting changes including two new categories and support from key partners like the British Medical Association Cymru (BMA) and the Royal College of Nursing Wales (RCN).

It will also be encouraging NHS Wales staff who have taken part in the new national initiative Improving Quality Together (IQT) to enter their projects.

IQT aims to equip staff with the improvement skills they need to make changes to services to provide even better care for patients, which has always been the aim of the NHS Wales Awards.

And remember – the Awards are open to all staff – clinical and non-clinical – as well as students.

So ask yourself – have you been taking forward improvement work that’s making a real difference to patients and raising the quality of care?

Now it’s time to tell others about it!

Closing date for entries: 5.00pm Friday 24 January 2014
Finalists announced: 10 March 2014
NHS Wales Awards Ceremony: 2 July 2014
Why should your team enter?

⭐ To show how you’ve improved patient care – let’s make sure that every patient in Wales benefits
⭐ So your team’s work is recognised – it’s an opportunity to celebrate your achievements
⭐ If you’ve completed Improving Quality Together silver level, you’ve got a project ready to enter!
⭐ If you win you’ll receive a bursary for professional development and a nice trophy!
⭐ You’ll also be able to use the work on your submission to enter other awards – so nothing’s wasted!

What is Improving Quality Together?

Improving Quality Together (IQT) was launched in March 2013, and is a national initiative to equip NHS Wales staff with skills that will help improve standards and delivery of care.

It aims to train 25% of the workforce in quality improvement by April 2014 and offers three main levels of training bronze, silver and gold. The silver level focuses on delivering quality improvement in the workplace and these projects are perfect for entering into the NHS Wales Awards.

Helen Dinham, Theatre Manager at Aneurin Bevan Health Board, who recently completed a silver level project, has seen the impact IQT can have on improving patient care.

Her project looked at improving cleaning in operating theatres.

She said “IQT helped me look at exactly what the problem was and not just assume I knew what it was. It enabled me to use methodology I hadn’t used before to achieve 100% compliance in cleaning that has reassured our patients about the quality of care they receive. I’ll definitely be entering this project into the NHS Wales Awards.”
We’re waiting for your entry!

Have you entered your own organisation’s awards?
Or maybe you’ve completed an Improving Quality Together silver level project...
If so, you’ve already got some great work which you can enter into the NHS Wales Awards today!

Here are the categories - remember, you can enter as many times as you like!

☆ Citizens at the centre of service re-design and delivery
  Supported by Wales Council for Voluntary Action

☆ Developing a flexible and sustainable workforce
  Supported by Royal College of Nursing Wales

☆ Improving patient safety
  Supported by Health Foundation

☆ Improving quality through better use of resources
  Supported by Finance Academy Wales

☆ Promoting better health and avoiding disease
  Supported by Welsh NHS Confederation

☆ Promoting clinical research and application to practice
  Supported by British Medical Association Cymru Wales

☆ Students improving patient safety and quality
  Supported by 1000 Lives Student and Educator Community

☆ Working seamlessly across organisations
  Supported by Welsh Local Government Association

☆ Outstanding innovation in care
  The winner will be chosen from the finalists of the other eight categories
  Supported by Royal Pharmaceutical Society Wales

A panel of experts will decide on a shortlist of finalists and visit organisations to find out more about work being taken forward. The winners will be announced at a special NHS Wales Awards ceremony in July 2014.

Mark Drakeford
Minister for Health and Social Services, Welsh Government

Celebrating the NHS

“It is vitally important that we recognise the contribution made by NHS staff in Wales which makes such a huge difference in improving the lives of patients.

The NHS Wales Awards 2014 are a chance for us to celebrate all that is good about the NHS. The NHS is constantly striving to be better and Improving Quality Together is a Wales wide approach to helping that happen.

I would encourage anyone who works in health organisations to take advantage of this opportunity to celebrate excellence in care by submitting an entry to the NHS Wales Awards 2014.”

www.nhswaluesawards.org.uk  @NHSWalesAwards  www.iqt.wales.nhs.uk
Follow these five simple steps to enter:

1. Visit the NHS Wales Awards website at www.nhswalesawards.org.uk
2. Read the guidance on how to enter.
3. Choose the category which is right for your work.
4. Download the storyboard template form and complete it.
5. Get Chief Executive approval and submit your entry before the closing date

Will you be in the NHS Wales Awards video next year?

We hope so! Watch the video on our website and see what it means to win an award.

Important dates:

★ Closing date for entries: 5.00pm Friday 24 January 2014
★ Finalists announced: 10 March 2014
★ NHS Wales Awards Ceremony: Wednesday 2 July 2014

“I’m so pleased our team entered the Awards last year – it was easy to do. It’s lovely to have the recognition and winning the Award has been a real boost to the team with our mental health support workers going from strength to strength.”

Sylvia Norrish, Manager, Day Opportunities & Recovery Service, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, NHS Wales Awards Winner 2013

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