

CEDAR is committed to supporting patient-centred, evidence-based care through research and evaluation of health interventions, technologies, and NHS services.

CEDAR: Centre for Healthcare Evaluation, Device Assessment and Research

CEDAR News

- Dr Rhys Morris has stepped down from his role as CEDAR Director, although he will continue to be departmental Director of Physical Science, Illustration, Engineering and Research (PIER) and involved in CEDAR's work. Everyone at CEDAR wishes to thank Rhys for his continued leadership and compassion.

"I would like to thank all the CEDAR staff for the last 5 years. It has been a privilege to lead such a kind and capable team, and to see it grow in experience and confidence. My time at CEDAR has been the highlight of my career, but the time is right for Kathleen to become the Director. Her great experience and knowledge, and her inclusive leadership style give me absolute assurance that CEDAR's future is bright and secure."

- Kathleen Withers has been appointed as our new director after being the Deputy Director for the last few years, and 15 years with CEDAR - Congratulations Kathleen!

Team News

- There have been a lot of exciting changes this quarter at CEDAR, we have welcomed two new members to the CEDAR team: Jodie Bartlett (CEDAR Administrator) and Grace McCutchan (Senior Researcher)
- The PREM (Patient Reported Experience Measures) work led by Kathleen Withers, alongside Hawys Waddington and Dr Rob Palmer in collaboration with Value Transformation (part of NHS Performance and Improvement; formerly the Welsh Value in Health Centre), was a runner-up at Picker Experience Network Awards at Birmingham University as well as being shortlisted for the forthcoming NHS Wales Awards 2025.
- Congratulations to Harley Anderson, Senior Researcher, for achieving the second highest votes for her poster focusing on the work of SWAN (Syndrome Without A Name) at Wales Rare Disease Research Network meeting.
- The [INVITE study](#), which assessed patient's preconceptions and acceptability of using mesh to try and prevent incisional hernias following abdominal surgery has recently been published. Dr Laura Knight from CEDAR provided the qualitative analysis on the interviews conducted within the study.
- The [SPIN-VR Study](#), which uses an affordable virtual reality-based home physiotherapy system aiming to keep people motivated to carry out their physiotherapy consistently at home, has met its recruitment target of 50 patients: bmjopen.bmj.com/content/15/10/e102994.full

CEDAR's mission is to collaborate with clinical teams to deliver responsive, impactful, high-quality, patient-focused research and evaluation to improve outcomes for people in Wales and more widely.

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Find out which projects have been making strides in CEDAR this quarter.

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Hear from Grace McCutchan, Senior Researcher at CEDAR



Project Highlights

Pipyn



In Wales, about one in four children aged 4-5 are classed as overweight or obese, according to the Child Measurement Programme. In Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (CTMUHB), a growing number of children are falling into the categories of overweight or obese. Being overweight or obese can lead to serious health problems, including heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and even some types of cancer. Children who are obese are more likely to stay obese when they grow up, so it's important to help children stay at a healthy weight to prevent health problems later on in life. The PIPYN programme helps children (ages 3-7) and their families to make healthy choices, like eating a balanced diet and being active. This project is studying how well the PIPYN programme works in Merthyr Tydfil. It will include interviews with people who have taken part in the programme and the staff who run it. CEDAR aim to help understand if the programme works in the long term and how it can be improved.

Process Evaluation of the ADAPT-Sepsis trial (PREADAPT-Sepsis)

Appropriate antibiotic use can save the lives of patients with sepsis whilst reducing the risk of bacterial resistance. Natural indicators of illness such as blood procalcitonin levels can inform the timing of the clinical decision to stop a course of antibiotics. The multicentre ADAPT-Sepsis randomised controlled trial showed that a daily procalcitonin-guided protocol can safely reduce antibiotic use in people with suspected sepsis. This research has been published in the Journal of the American Medical Association ([Dark et al., 2025](#)).

CEDAR Researchers led a process evaluation (PREADAPT-Sepsis) alongside the trial. It was funded by the Intensive Care Society and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). We aimed to identify factors that might help or hinder implementation of procalcitonin testing in critical care. Trial delivery staff throughout the UK were invited to complete a questionnaire and to participate in an interview. Our findings have been analysed and submitted for open-access publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

laith mewn lechyd - Language in health



CEDAR is responsible for translating PROMs (Patient Reported Outcome Measures) into Welsh for the Value

Transformation team, and the wider health service, as part of an ongoing national programme of work. To ensure that Welsh-speaking patients receive a service that is equal to that of English-speaking patients, an accepted scientific method for translation is followed to ensure that medical documents are clear and understandable in Welsh. This method requires:

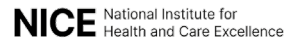
- 2x forward-translations (English-Welsh)
- Reconciliation (merging the forward-translations into one)
- 2x back-translations (Welsh-English)
- Cognitive debriefing (testing the translation with Welsh-speakers with a relevant medical condition)

To facilitate the cognitive debriefing stage, CEDAR has recently established [laith mewn lechyd](#), a group of Welsh-speaking volunteers who help test Welsh PROM translations. These volunteers take part in an informal discussion with a CEDAR staff member, where they provide feedback on the clarity and readability of the Welsh translation. If you would like to find out more or are interested in becoming a member of *laith mewn lechyd*, please complete the short questionnaire by scanning the QR code below or follow us on Instagram [@iaithmewniechyd_gig](#).



Workstream showcase - Late-stage assessment (LSA) for MedTech. Drug eluting Stents and Slide Sheets

CEDAR acts as an external assessment group (EAG) for



NICE (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence), contributing to evaluations such as Late-Stage Assessments (LSAs) which provide an evaluation of technologies that are already in use within the NHS. They are used to assess if price variations between technologies are justified, this can be by their clinical effectiveness, benefit to patients or their innovative features. This informs NICE guidance for NHS commissioners, procurement, and healthcare professionals to choose the most clinically effective and financially viable option. CEDAR have contributed to 2 LSAs this year.

Drug-eluting coronary stents for treating coronary artery disease

Drug eluting stents are implantable devices used in the treatment of coronary artery disease. This LSA included 29 drug-eluting stents from 14 different companies that have all been approved for use in the NHS and were available from NHS supply chain. Long-term follow up data suggested that there are no meaningful differences between devices in terms 2 key outcomes that were considered: target lesion failure (TLR) and target vessel-related myocardial infarction (TVMI). Overall, there was a lack of evidence to suggest differences in outcomes between any stents in the subgroups identified in the scope.

Slide sheets for repositioning or moving a person on or from a bed

Slide sheets are friction-reducing devices that assist with the repositioning or moving of a person on or from a hospital bed or other surface. In this LSA, all technologies were available on NHS supply chain. There were almost 200 technologies classified as slide sheets at the time of our assessment. The assessment found that washable slide sheets were less costly than single patient use slide sheets in most cases, although there were issues noted with the implementation of these. The economic modelling found that in-situ slide sheets may be less costly than removable sheets due to a reduction in care workers needed for repositioning. However, overall, there is only weak clinical evidence that demonstrates any difference in additional or innovative slide sheet features.

Staff Spotlight

We speak to Dr Grace McCutchan, Senior Researcher at CEDAR.



Tell us a bit about you and your role:

I have recently joined CEDAR as a Senior Researcher. My background is in Psychology, Behavioural Science and Public Health. In my previous role as Lecturer at Cardiff University and the Wales Cancer Research Centre, my research focused on reducing cancer inequalities. I'll be working on CADARN - a Moondance Cancer Initiative project to ensure rapid and equal access to cancer trials across Wales.

What three words would you use to describe CEDAR?

Welcoming, innovative, high-quality.

What is your favourite part of your job?

Working with patients and healthcare staff to feel like I'm making a difference.

Choose a superpower?

Teleportation - anything to avoid being crammed in the back of a plane!

What is a fact about you that people would be surprised by?

Despite my very best efforts, I can't tell my left from right - no idea why (maybe my dyslexic brain!).

If you have a proposal and would like to talk to our team, please contact us or fill in our [support request form](#)

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