

## **Cross-border principles (Wales and England)**

These principles will be used to help ensure that health policy making in England and Wales have due regard to border issues, especially in supporting better patient outcomes and avoiding the fragmentation of care:

1. How healthcare operates along the border should be clearly explained to all concerned. In addition, all organisations should share information as necessary, to inform good decision-making, support healthcare and minimise risk to patients.
2. The development of health policy in either country should have regard to the financial implications for healthcare providers in the other.
3. NHS emergency care should be available for all patients without regard to the border.
4. Within defined geographical border locations, residents should be able to register with a GP, and have access on the basis of that registration to out of hours across the border.
5. Access to other NHS services should operate within clear rules to determine which is the body responsible for paying for treatment for any person seeking health care. The guidance should ensure neither country is disadvantaged by the rules and ensure that no treatment is refused or delayed due to uncertainty or ambiguity as to which body is responsible for funding an individual's healthcare provision.
6. Each country should recognise the NHS bodies, services and workforce qualifications that are accepted as valid on the other side of the border.
7. Cross-border commissioning should reflect the legal rights of patients in their country of residence, e.g. in relation to mental health legislation where this differs on either side of the border.
8. The commissioning of tertiary services should have regard to cross-border issues.
9. In developing and implementing proposals for changes to NHS services and structures, regard should be given to the impact on healthcare delivery across the border and public engagement should involve all groups affected.
10. Arrangements for emergency preparedness, planning and response along the border should be mutually supportive.