

Implementing Value-Based Healthcare Across Wales: A Comprehensive Policy Analysis

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Wales is a pioneer in implementing Value-Based Healthcare (VBHC) and is recognised globally as a model for the necessary cultural changes at the health system level. This includes using clinical and patient reported outcomes measurements (PROMs) along with a robust health data infrastructure, developing outcome-based contracts, and making health policy decisions based on value within the health system.

We aimed to examine the implementation of the Value-Based Healthcare (VBHC) policy in Wales by assessing the policy using a health policy analysis framework (Figure 1). To synthesise knowledge that may be applied in different contexts and facilitate implementation.

We conducted a desktop review of literature follow by semi-structured, in-depth interviews with professionals and actors in the health systems of Wales and Thailand. Those includes policymakers, implementation leads, actors, clinicians, academics, and other interest groups. The study included 16 individuals from Wales and 13 from Thailand.

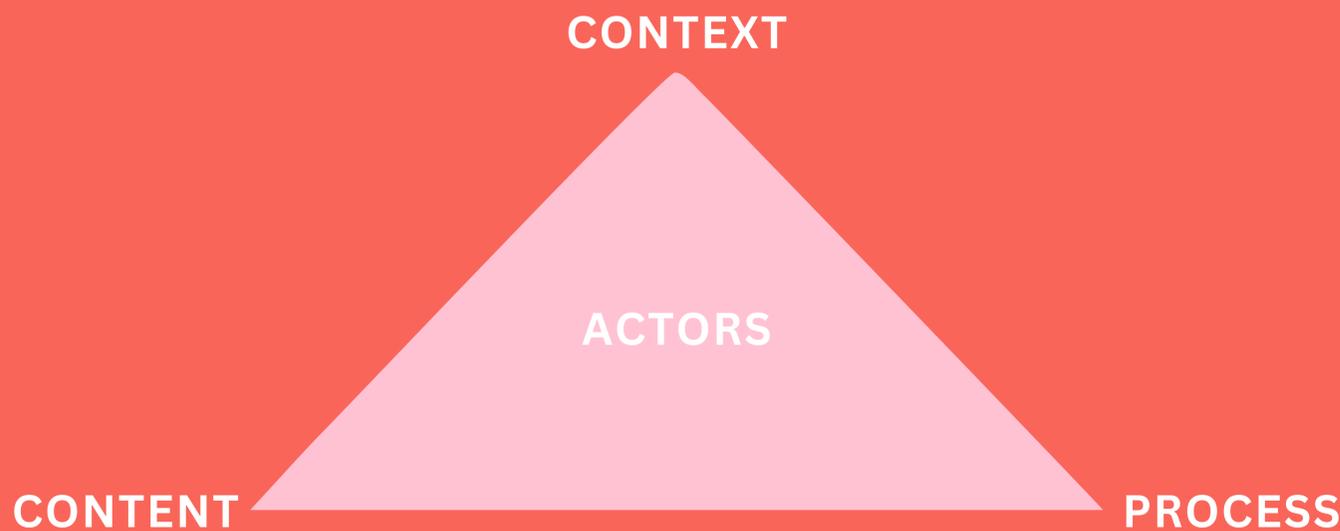
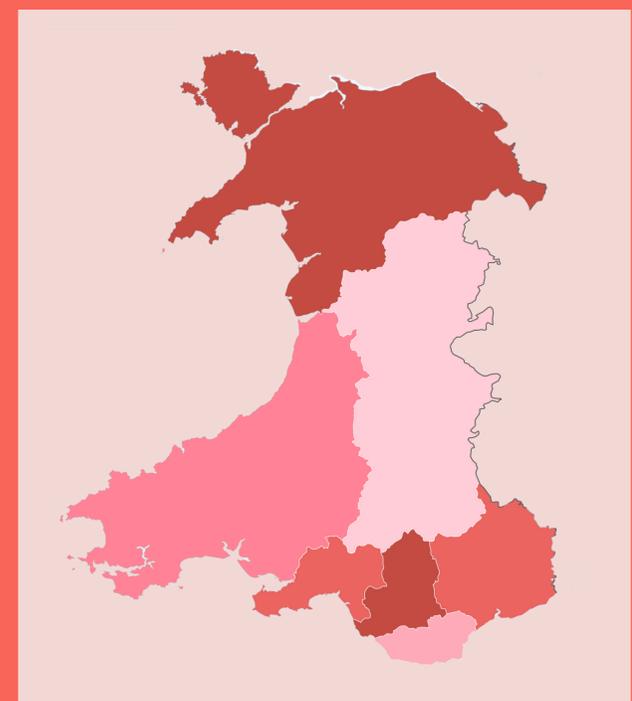


Figure 1. Health policy triangle framework (Walt and Gilson, 1994)

CONTEXT
 Wales has the background of an ageing society and poor health outcomes, with continuous growth in health spending. Wales has "integrated, centrally governed" healthcare system with an emphasis on prevention and health well-being. However, the absence of monitoring and improvement systems was apparent. Since 2014, **Prudent Healthcare** has been one of the Welsh government's most important principles in guiding the health system's direction.

CONTENT
 To support the Prudent Healthcare principles, the Welsh government has set the direction to deliver 'seamless, preventive organisations and services', achieving better outcomes at reduced cost and care designed to achieve 'what matters'. The health system has recognised VBHC concepts through strong long-term intersectoral policy and leadership, aiming to achieve healthcare sustainability.

PROCESS
 The VBHC teams in seven health boards are responsible for implementation across Wales, as well as financial, education, digital, and public health integration. Key activities and priorities are implementing all-Wales PROM systems with integrated information technologies to utilise the data.

ACTORS
 All the public and private sectors are included, with international collaboration and strong governance from the Welsh government. The Value-Based Health and Care Academy at Swansea University, which is part of the intensive learning academies Wales (ILAs), is a significant public-funded academic body that supports national and regional implementation.

