



APHA Briefing Note 20/19

Cymorth Visit Scheduling Change: Opt Out Process

Purpose

To inform Official veterinarians (OVs) of a change to the way in which the Cymorth visits are scheduled so that the farmer has to **actively opt out** of a Cymorth visit, rather than opt in is currently the case.

Background

The current level of Cymorth visits undertaken is around 7% of the total number of new bovine Tuberculosis (TB) breakdowns. The figure is even less for concluded breakdown visits. Welsh Government believe that most if not all farmers with such a breakdown would benefit from receiving good quality disease control advice from their OV to better understand measures they can take to help eradicate TB from their farms.

The current level of Cymorth TB visits undertaken is low with, undoubtedly, a number of contributory causes for this.

The change proposed is being introduced with the aim of increasing the number of Cymorth visits undertaken on breakdown farms.

The Cymorth visits are still voluntary but there will be a working assumption that the visit will take place unless the farmer **actively states** that they do not want a visit.

Specific details of the OPT OUT change

1. The Cymorth TB visit remains voluntary for the farmer. Cymorth TB farm visits **must** be carried out by Cymorth trained OVs.

2. At the start of every new TB breakdown the farmer will be sent a Cymorth TB visit letter which will have a “visit cancellation” notification form included.
3. The Cymorth Administration team will create the WSA Cymorth TB Breakdown visit which will arrive in the Delivery Partner (DP) Sam workbasket seven weeks later. If the farmer has already returned the visit cancellation form to APHA, the visit WSA will be cancelled and will not appear in the DP workbasket.
4. The APHA case vet carrying out the Disease Report Form (DRF) visit will promote the benefits of the Cymorth TB visit to the farmer.
5. The Cymorth TB visit WSA will have a completion target date seventy days from when it arrives in the DP Sam workbasket.
6. The DP will forward the Cymorth TB visit WSA to the farmer’s preferred OV practice provided the practice has a Cymorth trained OV.
7. The OV will be required to contact their farmer to arrange to carry out the Cymorth TB farm visit before the target date set in the WSA. It is recommended that the initial farmer contact takes place as soon as possible after the OV receives the WSA to give them maximum flexibility to schedule the visit at a time within the target window most convenient to the farmer and themselves. This is the OV’s opportunity to promote the visit’s benefits to the farmer. If the farmer *cannot be persuaded to arrange the visit*, the visit WSA will then be **cancelled by APHA**.
8. After the initial contact the OV is **required** to email the APHA Cymorth Admin team via the APHAWalesCymorthTB@defra.gov.uk mailbox using the “Cymorth visit notification form”. The OV email template is attached below and will also be supplied to the DPs.
9. This email template will prompt the Cymorth admin team to *either* forward (email to the OV via DP) the encrypted copy of the DRF and Farm Level

Report (FLR) for the farm in question, *or* cancel the Cymorth TB visit WSA.
Please note the WSA must NOT be cancelled by the OV.

10. All other elements of the Cymorth TB process will remain unchanged.

11. The Cymorth OTF visits carried out in the Intermediate TB Area North (ITBAN) will remain as an OPT IN process.

12. Process maps detailing the new procedure are attached to this briefing note.

13. This process is scheduled to begin on 12th September 2019.

Further Information

9. Further information on the Welsh Government Bovine TB eradication plan is available here:

<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/disease/bovinetuberculosis/bovinetberadication/?ang=en>

Issued: 29th August 2019

CYMORTH VISIT NOTIFICATION FORM: OV to CYMORTH ADMIN, APHA

CPH:

Name:

Location:

WSA:

Good Morning/Afternoon,

The following Cymorth Visit has been arranged with the farmer named above:-

NEW:

CONCLUDED (1 Hour):

CONCLUDED NPV (3 Hour):

Date:

Time:

OV SCHEDULED TO ATTEND CYMORTH VISIT:

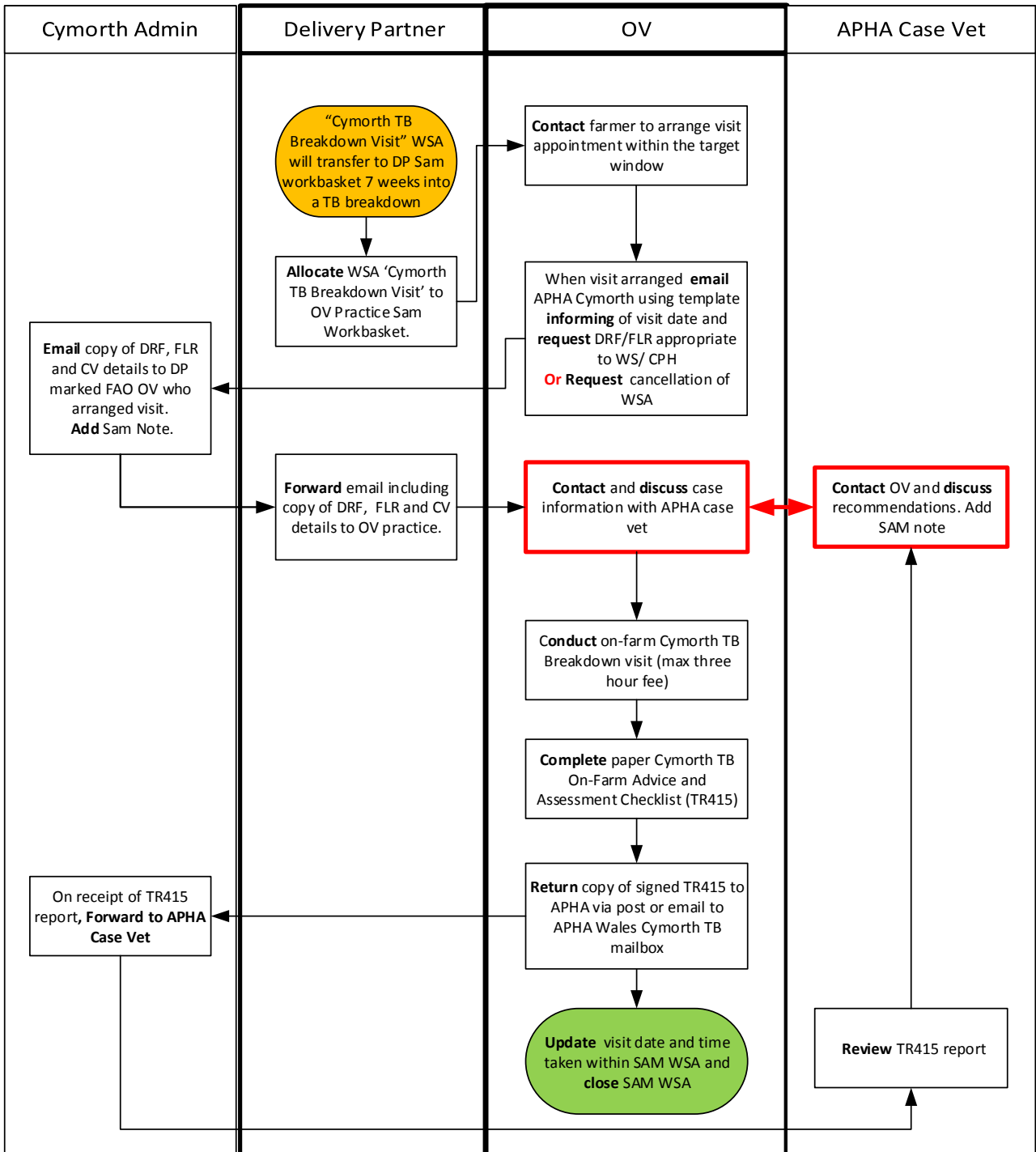
Please provide details of the Case Vet & forward the Disease Report Form (DRF) & the Farm Level Report (FLR) to us at your earliest convenience and in sufficient time prior to the Visit – NEW Breakdowns only.

Please provide details of the Case Vet & forward an updated Farm Level Report (FLR) to us at your earliest convenience and in sufficient time prior to the Visit - CONCLUDED Breakdowns only.

The farmer named above has declined to arrange a Cymorth Visit and is opting-out:

Delete/Input/Highlight as appropriate.

Cymorth TB Breakdown Visit



Cymorth TB Concluded Breakdown Visit

