

# elective news

The GP commissioning update on elective referrals

Newsletter  
January 2011

## A Message from WyvernHealth.Com

Welcome to the first newsletter dedicated to elective care. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide GP practices with the key commissioning information around elective care pathways so we provide the best care for Somerset patients.

As we move to GP commissioning in Somerset, it is important that we focus on the area of elective care referrals. Annually, elective care for Somerset patients costs around £170 million. This includes outpatient appointments and subsequent elective inpatient activity and follow up outpatient appointments.

As GP Commissioners we will be responsible for ensuring the best use of resources. To do that we need to start understanding our own clinical practice and how that influences the use of the resources we have available to us.

This newsletter is the first in a series designed to share useful information and data about elective care referrals that we

hope you will use within your practices and localities to help shape the development of services in the future and manage the resources we will be responsible for as GP Commissioners.

### ***What do we spend our elective care budgets on?***

In 2009/10 we bought:

1446 x Hip Procedures

2542 x Knee Procedures

4819 x Cataract Procedures

1390 x Hernia Procedures

In conjunction with the Flexible Healthcare Team, we currently have a number of clinical working groups looking at clinical pathways and best practice for referring.

In addition to this we will be looking at how we can support GPs through the introduction of better information, better systems and closer links with secondary care clinicians so that we can work together to ensure that we can provide the best care for our patients.

We want to spread best practice across primary care in the whole county. To do this, we are looking for elective care leads in each of the federations (see the inset box overleaf). The elective care leads will have a vital role working with GP colleagues to focus on elective care activity within the localities.

If you feel you can help please contact Paul Bearman at WyvernHealth.com.

**Dr. Matthew Dolman**  
**WyvernHealth.Com**

*One of the key issues for GP commissioners will be to understand the cost of buying care for their patients. Here are the costs for **First Outpatient Attendances for some of the most frequently referred to specialities in 2010/11.***

General Surgery	£204	Urology	£194	Ophthalmology	£148
Cardiology	£215	Rheumatology	£256	Gynaecology	£135
Vascular Surgery	£264	Gastroenterology	£268	ENT	£121

The full set of tariffs for 2010/11 can be found at:

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_112284](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_112284)

# Where can I get information about my elective referrals?

As of the end of October, against the PBC Budget, Somerset was overspent on elective procedures by £1.8M (4.1%) and overspent on outpatients by £2.4M (9.6%).

The financial outturn resulting from elective referrals is dependent on two factors, both of which are controllable or highly influenced by the GP:

- The overall level of referring by the GP Practice.
- Ensuring that the patient is offered all the relevant choices including those that do not attract tariff costs.

The PBC Dashboard provides information tools that allow a GP practice to understand their position, current performance and trend on both these aspects. All these reports are downloadable from the PCT reports menu which can be found on the right

hand side of the main screen of the Dashboard

## Key Indicator Report

This should always be a practice's starting point. It is a two page report which can be selected for either a practice or a federation. It shows the latest trend in elective referral rates and choice outcomes. It also includes data on emergency admissions. It is highly recommended that practices should review their key indicator report once a month. On areas that are red lighted, practices should then investigate further using the reporting tools suggested in the text of the report.

Further explanations of these more detailed analytical tools will be included in future newsletters.

## Information Queries and Training

Any queries relating to PBC information can be directed to the PBC Information Team on [pbcinfo@somerset.nhs.uk](mailto:pbcinfo@somerset.nhs.uk).

An email to the team can be activated by clicking the "PBC information Team" text on the bottom right corner of the PBC Information Dashboard.

Regarding training on the Dashboard, myself and Dr Nick Matthews have run Dashboard training courses in the IT training suites both in Yeovil and Taunton. Further dates are being organised and will be circulated in due course.

To be specifically included in the training mailing lists please email [pbcinfo@somerset.nhs.uk](mailto:pbcinfo@somerset.nhs.uk). If Yeovil and Taunton are not convenient sites for training, it might be possible to arrange training sessions at alternative sites. If this is required please, again, contact the team at the email address above.

Please look out for more information in future newsletters.

**Kevin Hudson**

## contact us .....

If you would like more information about elective referrals or have a question about anything you have seen in this newsletter, please use the following:

### For information about the referral data and analysis that is available for your practice/locality:

Kevin Hudson  
Programme Manager  
Referral Management Centre  
[kevin.hudson@somerset.nhs.uk](mailto:kevin.hudson@somerset.nhs.uk)

### For general information about managing referrals and GP commissioning:

Paul Bearman  
General Manager  
Wyvernhealth.Com  
[paul.bearman@wyvernhealth.nhs.uk](mailto:paul.bearman@wyvernhealth.nhs.uk)

### For information about elective care pathway development work:

Pat Jenkins  
Programme Director  
Flexible Healthcare  
[pat.jenkins@somerset.nhs.uk](mailto:pat.jenkins@somerset.nhs.uk)

**IMPORTANT NOTE...** Choose and Book works for all elective referrals to primary care and interface services such as OASIS, as well as acute hospital services. Wherever possible, elective referrals should be made through Choose and Book.

## WyvernHealth.Com needs your help!

We are looking for a GP representative from each federation to become the elective care lead for their locality.

The lead role will involve:

- Acting as the lead for elective care in your locality
- Liaising with practices in your locality to review elective care referral activity
- Identifying and sharing clinical best practice across your federation
- Work with other federation leads to share best practice across the county

We are currently in discussions with the PCT to ensure that the roles are adequately funded.

If you are interested in being involved as an elective care lead or would like to understand more about the role, please contact Paul Bearman at WyvernHealth.com (Email: [paul.bearman@wyvernhealth.nhs.uk](mailto:paul.bearman@wyvernhealth.nhs.uk)).