

elective news

The GP commissioning update on elective referrals

Newsletter
March 2011

Our second update on elective care.....

Welcome to the second elective care newsletter. In this edition we are focussing on a difficult subject, those **procedures not routinely funded by the NHS** locally here in Somerset, plus providing practices with an **update on the development of Advice and Guidance**, which is being led jointly by WyvernHealth and NHS Somerset.

The subject of procedures which are not funded by the NHS is a difficult one but there have traditionally been restrictions in place for those procedures which are deemed to be of low clinical benefit or where there is limited evidence of clinical effectiveness.

As we move to GP commissioning and managing real budgets, this subject will be just as relevant to us as GP commissioners, as we will need to balance the health needs of our patients with the financial resources we have available.

There are still referrals being made for some procedures where the patient's condition does not meet the relevant

criteria. To ensure equity for all our patients and to ensure that we manage our resources effectively, it is important that GPs are aware of the current policy and the pathway to follow when they have a patient who has exceptional circumstances.

Guidance for clinicians from the Individual Funding Review Panel is available at

<http://nww.somerset.nhs.uk/welcome/directorates/finance-performance-secondary-care-development/secondary-care-development/useful-documents-for-the-secondary-care-team/>

I am aware this is not an easy subject to broach with patients but I would ask GPs to familiarise themselves with this policy and follow the appropriate guidelines when referring. To support GPs we have developed a patient leaflet (see detail below) that can be used when discussing options for treatment.

Dr Matthew Dolman
WyvernHealth.com

Procedures not routinely funded are listed below:

- Abdominoplasty or Apronectomy
- Blepharoplasty
- Brow Lift
- Botulinum Toxin (Botox)
- Buttock, Thigh or Arm Lift/Reduction
- Facial Surgery
- Gender Reassignment
- Labiaplasty/Vaginoplasty/Hymenorrhaphy/Gender dysphoria
- Liposuction (Cosmetic)
- Pinnaplasty/Otoplasty
- Penile Implants/Prosthesis
- Rhinoplasty
- Split Earlobes
- Breast Reduction
- Breast Augmentation
- Breast Asymmetry
- Breast - Revision of implants
- Mastopexy (re-positioning of the nipple)
- Gynaecomastia

All referrals for the above procedures must go to the **Individual Funding Review Panel (IFRP)**.

In addition there is a further list of procedures in the guidance for which specific criteria must be met before a referral to secondary care is made.

New patient leaflet now available!

To support GPs and provide better information to patients about treatments that are not routinely available on the NHS, a patient leaflet has been produced. In addition, easy-to-follow pathways for varicose veins, ganglia and benign skin lesions have been produced.

A copy of the patient leaflet and guidelines for GPs can be found at:

<http://nww.somerset.nhs.uk/welcome/directorates/finance-performance-secondary-care-development/secondary-care-development/useful-documents-for-the-secondary-care-team/>

Copies of this leaflet will be sent to all Somerset GP practices during **April 2011**. We would ask that all practices make them available to patients and that GPs discuss the leaflet, where appropriate, during consultations.

Advice and Guidance Triage through Choose and Book

Many Practices are now using Advice and Guidance Triage for a number of specialties. This started with Paediatrics from Musgrove Park Hospital and now includes Gynaecology (Musgrove Park Hospital), Orthopaedics (Musculo Skeletal Interface Service) and Paediatrics (Yeovil District Hospital).

During the last 12 months, Somerset practices have generated over 3,800 Advice and Guidance requests. In all instances where Advice & Guidance Services have been available, we have measured clinical response times of less than two days. Many practices have received a response within a day.

Analysis has shown significant savings as a result of its use. For Paediatrics, referral rates for outpatient appointments are down by 20%. For these patients it

has provided a beneficial alternative to having to visit hospital to see a Consultant. The clinicians who have provided these services have been very pleased with the results of the pilots and are keen for such services to be continued and extended.

The Flexible Healthcare team are working with consultants in both Taunton and Yeovil to develop Advice and Guidance in other specialties, and the Choose and Book team (RMC) are working with practices to ensure all appropriate staff are trained its use.

Advice and Guidance is provided to enable all referrals to be triaged before they are referred for an appointment. The use of Advice and Guidance for all referrals is recommended where the service is available.

Practice training sessions for Advice and Guidance have been held in Taunton and Yeovil and more sessions are planned both for Practices who routinely refer to Musgrove or Yeovil. These session dates will be communicated through Practice Managers, and Choose and Book users in any practices not yet using Advice and Guidance (or those staff simply wanting a refresh) are invited to attend.

The next Advice and Guidance training session is on **31 March 2011** at Priorswood in Taunton.

For information about training or for any other queries regarding Advice and Guidance, please contact:

Lisa.Patten@somerset.nhs.uk
(Tel: **01278 727422**)

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

For general information about managing referrals and GP commissioning:

Paul Bearman
General Manager
Wyvernhealth.com
paul.bearman@wyvernhealth.nhs.uk

For information about elective care pathway development work:

Pat Jenkins
Programme Director
Flexible Healthcare
pat.jenkins@somerset.nhs.uk

More elective care leads needed!

In last month's issue we asked for GPs who would be willing to take on a role within their Federation to lead on Elective Care referrals. We have had a response from a number of localities but need more to ensure all areas are covered.

This 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.