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Our Ref: ID718

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Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which was received into this office on 20th January 2017.

You asked for information on referral incentives:

1. Does the CCG provide any financial incentives to GP surgeries for reducing the number of inappropriate referrals for hospital treatment and/or diagnostic tests? (yes or no)

NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) does provide financial incentives as part of the Primary Care Quality Scheme 2016/17

2. Please briefly detail how the incentive works, including:

a) What the incentive is - please state maximum value awarded and any conditions.

The incentive is called Primary Care Quality Scheme and component A of this is £1.50 payment per registered patient to reduce clinically inappropriate referrals. To note, the scheme overall is worth £3 per registered patient.

b) What reductions or targets GPs must achieve in order to receive this incentive.

(Group A) Remain in peer top 50th percentile or (Group B) Move into the 50th percentile range if within 5% or (Group C) Reduce by at least 5% if greater than 5% from 50th percentile range. All targets based on 14/15 baseline.

c) How the incentive is awarded/who receives it, e.g. is it paid directly to practices?

Payment is paid direct to GP practices.

3. Are there any specific specialities, procedures or treatments that this incentive applies to? Or if easier, specify where it does not apply.

All general and acute specialty referrals excluding urgent or those which are 2 week rule referral.

4. How much did the CCG pay to GP practices under the incentive scheme in:

a) 2015/16

NHS Wirral CCG paid £1.4 million in financial year 2015/16

b) 2016/17 to date

NHS Wirral CCG paid £200,400 in financial year 2016 to date, with 40% made as an aspirational payment of £1.5 made in Aug 16 and 50% clawback term if increase in inappropriate referrals.

5. Does the CCG provide any non-financial incentives to GPs for reducing the number of inappropriate referrals for hospital treatment and/or diagnostic tests? If yes, please give details as to what the incentive is, how it is awarded and what specialities it applies to.

NHS Wirral CCG does not provide any non-financial incentives.

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