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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 21st February 2017.

You Asked for:

1. What directives have been given to budget holders in respect of managing the ongoing budgetary overspend for CHC. For reference the papers published for the CCG Governance Body public meeting 7th February 2017 and citing the "Finance Report for the period - 1st April to 31st December 2016 M9 – 2016/17 Financial Year" section 2.3 - Continuing Healthcare reduction of overspend. "Actioned in Ledger at month 7 and budget holders targeted to achieve."?

The reference in section 2.3 of the NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Finance Report relates to Continuing Healthcare's (CHC) share (£0.8m) of a financial recovery target totaling circa £3.6m requiring all budget holders to review expenditure, and to take appropriate measures to ensure operational overspends are controlled, and brought back in line with the approved budget of the CCG required to achieve its statutory duty. Instructions to budget holders were to review all CHC cases with a view to reducing the operational overspend where possible and without compromising patient safety.

2. Specifically in respect of the response above, what have these budget holders then communicated to the nursing and care staff who undertake the assessments and make decisions in respect of which patients qualify for Continuing Healthcare?

NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) budget holder has verbally highlighted to the individual commissioning nurses the financial position of the CCG, and highlighted the importance of ensuring that all commissioning decisions are undertaken in line with the CHC Commissioning policy.

3. On how many occasions has the Rapid Response Team overridden assessments or disregarded a current clinical report/presentation by a General Practitioner or a Consultant for a patient? What justification is given where this has occurred?

NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group does not collect this information.

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