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Our Ref: ID742

NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group
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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 7th February 2017.

You Asked for:

- 1. How much money did the CCG spend on acupuncture services in the financial years 2013-14, 2014-15, and 2015-16?**

Unfortunately NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group does not separately identify spend on Acupuncture, therefore we are unable to answer this question.

- 2. How many referrals for acupuncture services were made in each of those years (if possible, broken down by initial consultation and follow-up consultations)?**

NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group does not hold this information.

- 3. For which conditions were patients referred to acupuncture services in each of those years (with numbers per condition, if possible)?**

NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group does not hold this information.

- 4. Do you have a written policy on the funding of acupuncture services? If so, please provide a copy.**

Please see attached NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group's Procedures of Low Clinical Priority (PLCP) document, which references acupuncture under the back pain section, however, to note we are in the process of updating our policy. The revised policy will be implemented from 1st April 2017 and will take into account the revised NICE guidance (ng59) as per extract below:

'Acupuncture

1.2.8 Do not offer acupuncture for managing low back pain with or without sciatica.'

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng59/chapter/recommendations>

- 5. Do you have any contracts with acupuncture providers to whom you may refer patients? If so, please (i) confirm with whom you have contracts and (ii) provide copies of the contracts.**

Acupuncture is provided through the six Physio AQPs – Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Wirral Community NHS Foundation Trust, Spire

Murrayfield Hospital, Peninsula Health, Premier (Joints & points) and the Injury Care Clinic. Please see attached the service specification that all six providers work to.

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