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Date: 5th November 2014

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 the 3rd November 2014.

You Asked for:

1) The names of the CCGs you represent

For each CCG individually, please state

2) How many commissioning policies are in operation for treatment or referral to treatment (either drawn up by the CCG or inherited from previous organisations)

3) How many of those policies include additional threshold criteria when compared to NICE criteria for patient eligibility.

4) How many of the CCG policies which state additional threshold criteria include prohibitions or restrictions on commissioning of treatments based on:

- a) BMI
- b) Degree of weight loss
- b) Smoking Status
- c) Alcohol consumption
- d) A maximum age
- e) A minimum time period of "watchful waiting" before the start of treatment
- f) Financial cost

If a full breakdown is not available please give as full an answer as possible.

5) How many policies (for treatment or referral of treatment) have been changed by the CCG since its inception to include additional threshold criteria when compared to NICE eligibility criteria.

Our Response:

- 1) NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

- 2) The CCG adheres to national guidance in relation to Referral to Treatment as attached, which have been taken from the NHS Standard Contract Particulars 2014/15 & "Everyone counts: Planning for patients 2014/15 to 2018/19.

Please also see attached a copy of the protocol for referrals from out-patient clinical to other specialities / trusts, of which NHS Wirral CCG adheres to.

The proposals relating to commissioning policies for procedures of limited clinical priority were presented to the Governing Body meeting held on 7th October 2014 and decisions will be ratified at the next Governing Body to be held on 11th November 2014. The papers for our Governing Body are available on the following page of our website:

<https://www.wirralccg.nhs.uk/About%20Us/board-meetings.htm>

- 3) Please refer to the response to question 2.
- 4) Please refer to the response to question 2.
- 5) Please refer to the response to question 2.

I hope this sufficiently answers your FOI enquiry however if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact a member of the FOI team (contact details at the top of this letter).

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