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Wirral
Clinical Commissioning Group

Date: 1st December 2017

Our Ref: ID 978

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 15th November 2017.

You Asked for:

Have referral policies changed for elective procedures for patients who are obese (with a BMI of 30 or above)?

Have referral policies changed for elective procedures for patients who smoke?

Are you considering changing referral policies for elective procedures for patients who are obese?

Are you considering changing referral policies for elective procedures for patients who smoke?

If yes to any of the above what has the change been or what change are you considering?

What is the current average wait from referral to treatment for elective hip replacements for patients who are obese or smoke?

What is the current average wait from referral to treatment for elective hip replacements for patients who are not obese and do not smoke?

Our Response:

In September 2017, NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) implemented a pre-operative optimisation policy whereby GPs/health care professionals are asked to discuss lifestyle factors such as obesity and smoking with a patient prior to elective surgery. This discussion will include explanation of the risks associated with surgery for patients who are obese and/or smoke and the offer of help via a referral to weight management and/or smoking cessation. If a person opts to accept the offer of referral, they will be referred immediately to the relevant lifestyle service alongside their hospital referral. It is important to note that no delays are added to a referral whilst this support is provided. This will be done alongside usual 18

week referral to treatment pathway. There is also the option for patients to decline the support, again, this will not result in any delays to referral/treatment.

For procedures under this policy, the average waiting time from referral to treatment is the same for obese patients/smokers as it is for all other Wirral patients. However, it should be noted that within the CCG's procedures of lower clinical priority (PLCP) policy, patients must have a BMI of under 40 to be eligible for hip and knee replacement/ resurfacing. This element of the policy has been in place since 2014. A patient will only be referred for the procedure after achieving this BMI therefore it is not possible to quantify how long patients may weight whilst they achieve this BMI. Unfortunately we do not have data to advise current waiting time for specific procedures, as our referral to treatment data is grouped by specialty. This information could be accessed from the local acute hospitals. I have included contact details for Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, who will be able to assist you further, in the link below;

wih-tr.AccessToInformationOffice@nhs.net

We hope this information is useful, however if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Corporate Affairs Team (contact details at the top of this letter)

Yours sincerely

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