

Our Ref: ID 1495

NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group  
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**Re: Freedom of Information Request – Procedures of Limited Clinical Effectiveness (POLCE)**

Thank you for your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which was received into this office on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2019.

**You Asked for:**

If the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) **does** follow a POLCE policy, please could you provide answers to each following question covering the following time periods:

The first covering the time period **1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015;**  
The second covering the time period **1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016;**  
The third covering the time period **1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017;**  
The fourth covering the time period **1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018;**  
The fifth covering the time period **1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 – 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019.**

1. For each time period, how many applications were approved and referred?
2. For each time period, how many applications were rejected?

**Our Response:**

1. Because of changes to the processes used, NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) only has Procedures of Limited Clinical Effectiveness (PLCP) applications data from partway through 2016 onwards.
  - 2016 (August 2016 onwards only) – 639 applications made.
  - 2017 – 7407 applications made.
  - 2018 – 14277 applications made.
  - 2019 (January to July only) – 7521 applications made.
2. The current PLCP process uses a web tool that lays out the clinical criteria that must be met for a procedure of limited clinical effectiveness to be commissioned by the CCG. In order for an application to be approved the clinician must complete a web form to confirm the patient meets the listed clinical criteria. This then generates a prior approval number. If the patient does not meet the criteria for PLCP commissioning then a prior approval number is not generated. The web tool can only record completed applications so we have no way of measuring incomplete applications. Therefore we have no measureable refusals for the PLCP process so are unable to provide an answer for question number 2.

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)

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