

Our Ref: ID 1854

NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group
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Re: Freedom of Information Request - Commissioning Community Health Services

Thank you for your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which was received into this office on 2nd March 2021.

You Asked for:

1. Does the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) commission Community Health Services via a block contract? If the answer to question 1 is no, briefly describe the commissioning approach.
2. Does the CCG's Community Health Service contract specifically include the provision of care for ambulatory sensitive conditions which are designed to prevent emergency admission to hospital?
3. Is the prevention of admission to hospital with one or more ambulatory sensitive condition a specific component of the current contract for district nursing services?
4. Other than an inflationary uplift, has the Community Health Services contract increased, decreased, or remained the same during the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 financial years?
5. Has the CCG commissioned services in the last two years (2019/2020 and 2020/2021) that are specifically designed to prevent admission to hospital for patients with ambulatory sensitive conditions?
6. If the answer to question 5 was yes – were these services to develop:
 - a. New Teams within the Community Health Services
 - b. Ambulatory Care in the Hospital Setting
 - c. Existing Community Health Services and Teams
 - d. Primary Care – General Practice Services or GP Federations
 - e. Other (briefly describe)

Our Response:

1. Yes.
2. Yes.
3. The current service specification for Community Nursing references the need to reduce avoidable admissions to acute care. It does not specifically refer to ambulatory sensitive conditions.
4. NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) have been under 2020/2021 mandated guidance with the uplifts for all contracts (i.e. acute, community and mental health base contracts). It has remained the same and certainly not decreased. Although the

inflationary uplift did have the efficiency target of 1.1% removed, which must be recognised.

5. NHS Wirral CCG commissions a number of services to support admission avoidance. These are not all specifically focussed on ambulatory sensitive conditions; however, this is within scope.
6. Please see below for further information.
 - a. New Teams within the Community Health Services
There have not been any completely new teams commissioned within this timeframe however additional services have been added within this timeframe. These are included in point C along with services/teams that were commissioned pre 2019/2020.
 - b. Ambulatory Care in the Hospital Setting
Ambulatory clinics are provided by Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (WUTH).
 - c. Existing Community Health Services and Teams
This includes services commissioned pre 2019/2020 that continue to be commissioned now.
 - Teletriage Service (nurse led service supporting the management of care home residents to avoid hospital admission).
 - Clinical streaming (a process where patients are directed from Accident and Emergency (A&E) to the Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC) on the hospital site if their condition could be managed by a Primary Care clinician (nurse or GP).
 - Point of Care Testing (POCT) – Diagnostic tests now available within the UTC to support patients who otherwise may have been referred to the assessment units for further tests (Note, this is a new pathway which is part of the existing UTC portfolio and staffing).
 - NHS 111 First / Local Clinical Assessment Service – Supporting patients who have contacted NHS 111 to avoid hospital attendance and potential admission.
 - Urgent Care Assessment and Treatment Service – Supporting paramedics with management of patients to avoid hospital conveyance and potential admission.
 - Community Integrated Response Team – This service offers rapid home-based assessments (within 2 hours) for patients at risk of admission. The team is supported by nurses, therapists and social workers. The service may utilise domiciliary packages of care / Reablement to support a person to remain at home or they may access a transfer to assess bed if required.
 - d. Primary Care – General Practice Services or GP Federations
The Primary Care Quality Scheme for 2019/2020 included requirements for quality improvement projects to be undertaken. One of the recommended areas of focus was high intensity users, defined as patients with a high number of hospital admissions. The aim was to enhance proactive care and management for these patients reducing the likelihood of an admission being required. This will have included a number of patients with ambulatory sensitive conditions however it was not exclusive to this.
 - e. Other (briefly describe)
Transfer to Assess beds – A bed-based service that patients can be admitted to for rehabilitation or assessment to avoid a hospital admission. The service also supports patients being discharged from hospital.

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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