

Ref: CCG October08 2016

Corporate Services
NHS Liverpool Clinical Commissioning Group
The Department
Lewis's Building
Renshaw Street
Liverpool
L1 2SA

Email: foi@liverpoolccg.nhs.uk

1st November 2016,

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request that we received on 12th October 2016, with regards non-urgent/unnecessary GP referrals for hospital treatment

Request/**Response**

1a. Does the CCG currently have any procedures in place to reduce non-urgent/unnecessary GP referrals for hospital treatment?

Yes

1b. if yes, please provide details: please state which areas/specialities the policy covers, how long it has been in place and how long it will apply.

Please see link to our commissioning policy-

<http://www.liverpoolccg.nhs.uk/media/1735/final-liverpool-ccg-commissioning-policy-13-05-2015-for-website.pdf>

1c. if there is no current policy, are there any plans to implement one within the next three months? If so, please give details as in 1b?

The CCG commissioning policy is currently being reviewed in partnership with CCGs across Cheshire and Merseyside.

2a. Does the CCG currently have any policies in place to reduce inappropriate GP referrals for diagnostic tests? (yes or no)

Yes

2b. if so, please give details stating which tests are included, how long this policy has been in place and how long it will apply.

The CCG only offers direct access for GP referrals for specific pathways of care, e.g. GP access to CT within 2 weeks for suspected cancer, GP access to Chest CT for suspected lung cancer. These pathways are evidence based and have set criteria that must be met which means that inappropriate GP referrals are uncommon. In a number of secondary care services there is also a triage system for certain diagnostics where referrals are redirected more appropriately if necessary.

2c. If there is no current policy, are there any plans to implement one within the next three months? If so, please give details as in 2b.

N/A

3a. Does the CCG have any policies to reduce inappropriate A&E attendances? If so, please specify.

The CCG does not have a policy in place to reduce inappropriate A&E attendances.

3b. Does the CCG have any policies to redirect patients who have arrived at A&E inappropriately – eg to primary care/pharmacy. If so, please provide details.

The CCG does not have a policy in place to redirect patients, who have arrived at A&E inappropriately, to alternative services such as a GP or pharmacy

We wish to take this opportunity to inform you that a formal complaints and internal review procedure is available to applicants who are unhappy with responses provided to FOI requests. You can formally request an internal review within a reasonable period of time (2 calendar months) from the date this response was issued.

Where you are not satisfied with the decision of the internal review you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) for a further review of that decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our complaints procedure in the first instance.

The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioners Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire

SK9 5AF

www.ico.gov.uk

Should you require any further information, clarification regarding this response or do not feel that your request has been answered as you would expect, please contact us to discuss.

Yours sincerely,

**Customer Relations Lead
NHS Liverpool CCG**