

NHS Board Chief Executives

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Our ref 07 HSS\Spec\Gender Reassignment\Corres\
2013-09-10 BCE Award of Contracts

Copy to: NHS Board Medical Directors
NHS Board Directors of Planning
NHS Board Directors of Finance
NHS Board OOA referral staff

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Dear Colleagues

AWARD OF CONTRACTS FOR SPECIALIST GENDER REASSIGNMENT SURGERY

I am pleased to report that the process of procuring specialist gender reassignment surgical services has been successfully completed and contracts have now been awarded to 3 suppliers for the different elements of specialist surgery tenders. The following contacts have been awarded:

- male to female genital surgery – Brighton Nuffield Hospital
- female to male genital surgery – St Peter's Andrology Centre, London
- specialist construction of a male chest for transmen – Manchester NHS Trust

The terms of the framework agreements will start from 1 October 2013. Further work will be required to agree detailed Service Agreements with providers, and this is likely to take until 1 November before the services are fully ready to accept Scottish referrals.

The framework agreements are for 3 years, with a possible extension of one year. National Services Division (NSD) plans to meet with each of the providers as soon as possible to finalise detailed service agreements, setting out quality standards, reporting arrangements, and referral / discharge pathways. From 1 October 2013, any new patient (i.e. Assessment Two completed after 1 October – as per the Gender Reassignment Protocol CEL 26 2012) referred for gender reassignment surgery, will be referred under the new framework agreements.

Part of the negotiations with the providers is to ensure that any patients, who have been referred for specialist gender reassignment surgery before 30 September 2013, will have access to the arrangements under the new framework agreements using the same terms, conditions, quality standards and price in the national contracts. All 3 providers have agreed to extend this provision to any NHS Board which would wish to refer patients on this basis.

There is, of course, current access to the NHS Manchester service for construction of a male chest through the existing national risk share arrangements for specialist referrals to England because this is an NHS service which is currently funded centrally on an ad-hoc, extra contractual, basis for residents of Scotland through NSD. The only difference from 1 October 2013 in relation to this service will be that the service will be covered by a national contract setting out access, quality standards and required follow up care.



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*NHS National Services Scotland is the common name of the
Common Services Agency for the Scottish Health Service.*

The other two providers are private and are therefore excluded from the "Specialist Services in England" risk share scheme. Each Board would therefore need to fund their own patients referred to these providers where the decision for surgery was before 1 October 2013. NSD could however monitor the quality of the care provided according to the requirements of the service agreements, if helpful.

One of the key elements of these negotiations will be to ascertain the existing waiting lists and waiting times and to work towards a shorter waiting time period. In order for us to be able to begin these waiting list discussions it is important that we have a clear indication of the number of patients who are currently 'in the system' and have reached the stage of being referred for surgery.

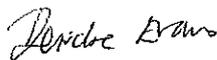
The treatment costs of all patients referred after 1 October will be met as part of the framework agreement; however this only covers the surgical and clinical costs. Reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses for patients referred for specialist gender reassignment surgery in England will remain at the discretion of individual NHS Boards.

A key benefit of the new arrangements is to ensure improved information for patients, and improved after care both in the immediate post operative period, and 6 months after surgery. Provision has been negotiated for follow up out patient visits to take place in Scotland 6 months after surgery on an outreach basis.

The contracts sets specific quality standards and NSD would be keen to have feedback from any Board referring patients under the agreements to help us to monitor and drive up quality.

NSD will be working with the Gender Identity Clinics and finance colleagues within the NHS Boards who oversee out-of-area referrals to ensure that there is an agreed pathway to improve the communication and referral pathways for this group of patients and to ascertain the existing waiting lists. It is anticipated that this process will be implemented by 1 November 2013.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Deirdre Evans
Director

cc *NHS Board Directors of Planning*
NHS Board Medical Directors
NHS Board Directors of Finance
NHS Board Out of Area Referral Staff
Miss Kathy Collins, Programme Director, National Services Division (NSD)
Mrs Julie Anderson, Senior Programme Manager, National Services Division (NSD)
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Gender Identity Clinics – Clinical Leads