

Greater Manchester Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

Date: 10 December 2024

Subject: Proposed Increased Scrutiny and Potential Pause of Procedures of Limited Clinical Value in Greater Manchester

Report of: Sara Roscoe, Associate Director of Strategic Commissioning, and Rob Bellingham, Chief Officer of Commissioning, NHS Greater Manchester

Purpose of Report

To set out the proposal for increased scrutiny and potential pause of procedures of limited clinical value in Greater Manchester. It also includes additional information on any engagement that is ongoing.

Recommendations:

The Joint Health Scrutiny Committee is requested to:

1. Note and comment on the report including the mitigations that are being put in place. A fuller update of actions taken will be presented to the January Committee.

Contact Officers

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Report authors must identify which paragraph relating to the following issues:

Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

A full equalities impact assessment is in progress in respect of this proposal.

Risk Management

This report is to support the risk management of this proposal, ensuring that JHSC has opportunities to review and comment on planned changes.

Legal Considerations

This report is part of the discharge of NHS Greater Manchester's legal duties to engage with scrutiny committees on to consult local authorities on substantial service changes that affect their population (Health and Social Care Act 2006, section 244 and the Local Authority Regulations 2013, section 21).

Financial Consequences – Revenue

This proposal seeks to ensure appropriate use of resource in Greater Manchester.

Financial Consequences – Capital

Not applicable

Number of attachments to the report: 0

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Not applicable

Background Papers

Not applicable

Tracking/ Process

Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution

No

Exemption from call in

Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?

No

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

10th December 2024

1. Introduction/Background

This paper provides an overview of a proposal of NHS Greater Manchester in respect of closer scrutiny of procedures being undertaken which are deemed of limited clinical value.

NHS Greater Manchester purchase the majority of healthcare services on behalf of the local population, and we are required by law to operate within finite budgetary constraints. This means that we must prioritise resources and provide interventions with the greatest proven health gain.

Consequently, some referrals or interventions that patients may wish to receive, and which a clinician may wish to offer, cannot be funded. The intention is to ensure equity and fairness in respect of access to NHS funding and to ensure compliance with the NHS England Evidence Based Interventions, (EBI) Guidance. The Evidence-Based Interventions (EBI) Programme is a clinical initiative led by the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (AoMRC) in partnership with NHS England, as well as NHS Clinical Commissioners and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence.

The aim of the EBI Programme is to improve the quality of care being offered to patients by reducing unnecessary interventions and preventing avoidable harm. In addition, by only offering interventions on the NHS that are evidence-based and appropriate, the programme frees up resources that can be put to use elsewhere in the NHS. This is more important than ever to help support the NHS – and particularly elective care services – as we seek to address long waiting lists.

NHS GM has a series of commissioning statements aligned to the NHSE Evidence Based Interventions, (EBI) Programme, which include specific clinical criteria for undertaking these procedures. Activity and cost for these procedures however has increased significantly and continues to do so and it is not evident as to whether this is warranted.

2. Proposal

In order to undertake further due diligence and establish processes to ensure that these procedures are being undertaken in accordance with the NHS GM Commissioning statements, we are instigating a pause on all related activity as outlined in [appendix one](#).

There are a number of commissioning statements which are incorporated into GM transformation workstreams, and these will continue as planned and therefore the current commissioning statements remain unaffected. These can be found at [appendix two](#). For completeness, a list of procedures which are not routinely commissioned can be found at [appendix three](#).

For those patients who meet the exceptionality criteria within the commissioning statements and where there is a demonstration of clinical need, clinicians can seek approval to undertake these procedures. NHS GM is currently working through this process and issuing a comprehensive set of frequently asked questions (FAQs) prior to full implementation in mid December 2024.

This proposal will mean that for those patients who do not meet the exceptionality criteria of the evidence-based commissioning statements or where there is no evidence of clinical need, they will not receive the procedure. Where the procedure is performed outside the exceptionality criteria or approvals process, providers will do so at their risk and will not be funded.

3. Patient Communications and Engagement

NHS GM has developed patient facing communication which can be found [here](#) and includes a link to express their interest to participate in further patient engagement surrounding these procedures. This will inform the future arrangements surrounding the due diligence and processes from April 2025.

4. Recommendation

The Joint Health Scrutiny Committee is requested to:

1. Note and comment on the report including the mitigations that are being put in place. A fuller update of actions taken will be presented to the January Committee

Appendix 1

Commissioning statements that are impacted – instigating an immediate pause on any new referrals/activity

Policy Name	Link to policy statement
Ganglion Cyst Removal Adults only	GM Ganglion Cyst removal commissioning statement
Tonsillectomy Adults and Children	GM Tonsillectomy Commissioning Statement
Trophic Electrical Stimulation (TES) for Facial Palsy Adults and Children	GM TES for Facial Palsy Commissioning Statement
Circumcision for therapeutic reasons (Surgical procedures on the prepuce) Adults and Children	GM Circumcision Commissioning Statement
Common Benign Skin Lesions Adults and Children	GM Common Benign Skin Lesions Commissioning Statement
Dupuytren's Contracture Adults and Children	GM Dupuytren's Contracture Commissioning Statement

Facet Joint Injections (all levels) Adults and Children	GM Facet Joint Injections Commissioning Statement
Hyperhidrosis Adults and Children	GM Hyperhidrosis Commissioning Statement
Labiaplasty Adults and Children	GM Labiaplasty Commissioning Statement
Low back pain and sciatica (Assessment and management of in over 16s) Adults and Children	GM Low Back Pain Commissioning Statement
Sacroneuromodulation for Urinary Retention and Constipation Adults and Children	GM Sacroneuromodulation Commissioning Statement
Varicose Veins Adults and Children	GM Varicose Veins Commissioning Statement
Drainage of the middle ear, Surgical (with or without the insertion of grommets) Adults and Children	GM Drainage of the Middle Ear Commissioning Statement
Headache Disorders Adults	GM Headache Disorders Commissioning Statement

Out of contract spinal procedures Adults and Children	GM Out of Contract Spinal procedures Commissioning Statement
Carpal Tunnel Syndrome (Surgical Interventions for) Adults and Children	GM Carpal Tunnel Commissioning Statement
Trigger Finger (Surgical Correction of) Adults only	GM Trigger Finger Commissioning Statement
Dermatochalasis (Correction of) Adults and Children	GM Dermatochalasis Commissioning Statement
Pinnaplasty Children only	GM Pinnaplasty Commissioning Statement
Breast Surgery (Aesthetic) Adults and Children	GM Aesthetic Breast Surgery Commissioning Statement
Body Contouring – Apronectomy Adults only	GM Body Contouring Commissioning Statement
Rhinoplasty / Septoplasty / Septo-Rhinoplasty Adults and Children	GM Rhinoplasty Commissioning Statement

Tattoo Removal Adults and Children	GM Tattoo Removal Commissioning Statement
Common Benign Eyelid Lesions (Removal of) Adults and Children	GM Common Benign Eyelid Lesions Commissioning Statement
Haemorrhoids and anal skin tags (Surgical management (including banding) of) Adults and Children	GM Haemorrhoids Commissioning Statement
Repair of Split/Torn Earlobes Adults and Children	GM Repair of Split Torn Ear Lobes Commissioning Statement
Hernias (Surgical repair of) Adults only	GM Hernia Commissioning Statement
Laser Eye Surgery Adults and Children	GM Laser Eye Commissioning Statement
Squint Surgery (Surgical correction of adult Strabismus) Adults only	GM Strabismus Commissioning Statement
Asymptomatic Gallstones Adults and Children	GM Gallstone Commissioning Statement
Bunion (Hallux Valgus) Surgery Adults only	GM Bunion Surgery Commissioning Statement

Rhinosinusitis / Rhinitis / Sinusitis Adults and Children	GM Rhinosinusitis Commissioning Statement
Communication Aids Adults and Children	GM Communication Aids Commissioning Statement
Functional electrical Stimulation (FES) for foot drop Adults and Children	GM FES for Foot Drop Commissioning Statement
D&C and Hysterectomy for heavy menstrual bleeding Adults and Children	GM D&C and Hysterectomy for HMB Commissioning Statement

Appendix 2

Commissioning Statements subject to GM wide transformation – not currently affected by this letter

Policy Name	Link to policy statement
Assisted Conception (all areas) Adults and Children	GM Assisted Conception Commissioning Statement
Cataract Surgery Adults and Children	GM Cataract Surgery Commissioning Statement
Spinal Injections and related therapies Adults and Children	GM Spinal Injections Commissioning Statement
Knee Arthroscopy Adults only	GM Knee Arthroscopy Commissioning Statement
MRI scanning (Wide bore, open and open upright) Adults and Children	GM MRI Scanning Commissioning Statement
Continuous Glucose Monitoring (Real-Time) Adults and Children	GM Continuous Glucose Monitoring Commissioning Statement
Hip Replacement Adults only	GM Hip Replacement Commissioning Statement

Knee Replacement Adults only	GM Knee Replacement Commissioning Statement
Orthoses, bespoke orthoses & 24-hour posture management Adults and Children	GM Orthoses Commissioning Statement
Ultrasound and Pulsed Electromagnetic Systems (PES) for bone healing Adults and Children	GM Ultrasound and PES Commissioning Statement
Shoulder Impingement Adults and Children	GM Shoulder Impingement Commissioning Statement
Caesarean Section Adults and Children	GM Caesarean Section Commissioning Statement
Cough Assist Devices Adults and Children	GM Cough Assist Commissioning Statement
Tongue Tie Children only	GM Tongue Tie Commissioning Statement

Appendix 3

Commissioning Statements not routinely commissioned

Policy Name	Link to policy statement
Experimental and Unproven Treatments Adults and Children	GM Experimental and Unproven Treatments Commissioning Statement
Lycra Body Suits Adults and Children	GM Lycra Body Suits Commissioning Statement
Endoscopic Thoracic Sympathectomy (ETS) for Facial Blushing Adults and Children	GM ETS for Facial Blushing Commissioning Statement
Complementary and Alternative Therapies Adults and Children <i>Excluding Hypnotherapy as this is commissioned</i>	GM Complementary Therapies Commissioning Statement
Aesthetic surgery (other) – Adults only	GM Other Aesthetic Surgery Commissioning Statement
Electrolysis and Laser Hair Removal For Hirsutism Adults only	Electrolysis and Laser Hair Removal Commissioning Statement

<p>Hyaluronic Acid Injections for Osteoarthritis Adults and Children</p>	<p><u>GM Hyaluronic Acid Injections Commissioning Statement</u></p>
<p>Pelvic Vein Embolisation in the management of varicose veins Adults and Children</p>	<p><u>GM Pelvic Vein Embolisation Commissioning Statement</u></p>
<p>Surgical Revision of Scarring Adults and Children</p>	<p><u>GM Scarring Commissioning Statement</u></p>
<p>Skin Resurfacing Techniques Adults and Children</p>	<p><u>GM Skin Resurfacing Commissioning Statement</u></p>
<p>Snoring (Invasive treatments for) Adults and Children</p>	<p><u>GM Snoring Commissioning Statement</u></p>
<p>Hair Replacement Technologies for Alopecia Adults only</p>	<p><u>GM Hair Replacement Commissioning Statement</u></p>