

Clinical Policy Advisory Group (CPAG)

CPAG DECISION MAKING DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC

CPAG DECISION MAKING DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC – UPDATED MAY 2021

Following a recent review, it has been agreed that CPAG meetings, commencing 15th July 2021 will be held on a three-monthly basis via MS Teams. For those monthly meetings which fall in between we will continue to circulate papers for virtual agreement and will focus on core business.

This arrangement will continue to be monitored in accordance with the CCGs Business continuity levels and the covid pandemic. The TOR have been updated to reflect the reduced function and activity of CPAG. The interim arrangements can be found on the Derby and Derbyshire CCG (DDCCG) Clinical Policies website: http://www.derbyshiremedicinesmanagement.nhs.uk/assets/Clinical-policies/CPAG/CPAG_TOR/interim_cpag_tor.pdf

PRIOR APPROVAL UPDATED

Prior Approval (PA) is an assurance mechanism used by DDCCG to ensure that the clinical criteria listed within the Procedures of Limited Clinical Value (PLCV) policies are met. Through CPAG, DDCCG has collaborated with stakeholders to remove any unnecessary administration burden.

A useful summary can be found on the DDCCG Clinical Policies website: <http://www.derbyshiremedicinesmanagement.nhs.uk/clinical-policies-home/clinical-policies/plcv>

CLINICAL POLICIES UPDATED PROCEDURES OF LIMITED CLINICAL VALUE POLICIES

Research evidence shows that some interventions are not clinically effective or only effective when they are performed in specific circumstances. The purpose of the Procedures of Limited Clinical Value (PLCV) policy is to clarify the commissioning intentions of the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). The CCG will only fund treatment for clinically effective interventions that are then delivered to the right patients.

Clinical Policy	Key Changes
Hysterectomy for Menorrhagia Policy	<p>Hysterectomy is the surgical removal of a woman's uterus and can be an effective treatment for heavy bleeding, but it does render the woman unable to have more children. Heavy menstrual bleeding and the conditions that cause it are treated with hysterectomy when other medical treatments have failed.</p> <p>The policy has been reviewed and updated as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criteria 4 has been removed from policy. Change of wording from 'levonorgestrel intrauterine system' to ' licensed levonorgestrel intrauterine system' and the removal of example 'eg Mirena'. <p>http://www.derbyshiremedicinesmanagement.nhs.uk/clinical-policies-home/clinical-policies/gynaecology-and-fertility</p>

UPDATED POSITION STATEMENTS

Statement	Description
Facet Joint Injections	<p>A facet joint injection involves injecting local anesthetics and sometimes steroids into or around a facet joint. The local anesthetics numb the nerves to the facet joint to give pain relief. The steroids reduce inflammation and may make the pain relief last longer.</p> <p>The current position statement states that DDCCG does not routinely commission facet joint injections for the treatment of non-specific low back without sciatica. The statement also includes the exception that facet joint injections are commissioned for diagnostic purposes to establish whether pain originates from the facet joint.</p> <p>As it has been identified that the statement regarding facet joint injections for diagnostic purposes is not in line with NICE CG 59 guidance a more restrictive statement has been agreed which also links to the DDCCG policy on injections for nonspecific low back pain without sciatica including spinal fusion for low back pain policy, which also confirms that facet joints should not be offered for people with non-specific low back pain</p> <p>http://www.derbyshiremedicinesmanagement.nhs.uk/clinical-policies-home/clinical-policies/orthopedics</p>
Acupuncture	<p>Acupuncture is a treatment derived from ancient Chinese medicine. Fine needles are inserted at certain sites in the body for therapeutic or preventative purposes</p> <p>Following the publication of the NICE Guideline on Chronic pain (primary and secondary) in over 16s: assessment of all chronic pain and management of chronic primary pain an updated position statement has been agreed for Acupuncture stating that "Acupuncture will not be routinely commissioned for pain management"</p> <p>Key changes to the statement include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledgement of NICE Guideline 193 Acknowledgement that there are currently no commissioned services within a community setting

- Recognise that the NICE guideline recommends acupuncture for Primary Chronic Pain which is a condition that is difficult to diagnose.
- Regarding the economic evidence to support CPAG notes the heterogeneity of the studies, and the number of studies used, should be considered when interpreting this analysis.
- The CCG 'commissioning intentions' list the service developments that have been agreed as part the planning and prioritisation process

<http://www.derbyshiremedicinesmanagement.nhs.uk/clinical-policies-home/clinical-policies/miscellaneous>

CPAG WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT & ELECTRONIC REFERRAL SERVICE TEMPLATES

The Electronic Referral Service (ERS) PLCV referral form templates are being reviewed and updated to accurately reflect the current policies and are now available on the Clinical policies website. We actively encourage feedback which should be sent to the PLCV inbox at PLCV.priorapproval@nhs.net

EVIDENCE BASED INTERVENTIONS LIST2 GUIDANCE – NEW POLICIES

[Evidence-Based Interventions List 2](#) was published in November 2020.

As EBI2 has been included in the NHS standard contract contracts for 21/22 a plan has been agreed to review the 31 EBI Interventions in sections and re-engage with stakeholders so that we are assured that providers are now working in line with this guidance.

The following new EBI2 policies/position statements have been agreed

Policy/Statement	Description
Lumbar Radiofrequency Facet Joint Denervation	Facet joint radiofrequency denervation is a procedure in which nerve fibres supplying the painful facet joints are selectively destroyed by heat produced by radio waves and delivered through a needle Policy has been aligned to NICE NG59 Guidance including the age criteria (16 years and over) http://www.derbyshiremedicinesmanagement.nhs.uk/clinical-policies-home/clinical-policies/orthopedics
Surgical Intervention for Chronic Rhinosinusitis	Endoscopic sinus surgery is a surgical procedure used to remove blockages in the sinuses and nasal polyps. It is designed to improve drainage of the sinuses . Policy has been aligned to the EBI2 proposal for this intervention http://www.derbyshiremedicinesmanagement.nhs.uk/clinical-policies-home/clinical-policies/ent
Exercise ECG for screening for Coronary Heart Disease	An exercise ECG, also called an exercise tolerance test, is an electrocardiogram (ECG) that is recorded while you are walking on a treadmill or cycling on an exercise bike. The aim of the test is to see how your heart works when you are exerting yourself Position Statement has been aligned to EBI2 proposal for this intervention http://www.derbyshiremedicinesmanagement.nhs.uk/clinical-policies-home/clinical-policies/cardiology
Arthroscopic Surgery for Degenerative Meniscal Tears	Arthroscopy of the knee is a surgical technique where a camera and instruments are inserted into the knee through small incisions, usually under general anaesthesia. Following a detailed systematic assessment of the important structures within the knee joint a surgical procedure is performed which can involve repair or resection of meniscal tissue, with or without other associated procedures such as ligament reconstruction or repair of articular cartilage lesions. Position Statement stating that Arthroscopic Surgery for degenerate meniscal tears with advance structural osteoarthritis will not be routinely commissioned has been put in place as the EBI2 proposal focuses on "degenerative Meniscal tears" http://www.derbyshiremedicinesmanagement.nhs.uk/clinical-policies-home/clinical-policies/orthopedics

NICE INTERVENTIONAL PROCEDURES GUIDANCE, DIAGNOSTIC PROCEDURES, MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIES GUIDANCE AND MEDTECH INNOVATION BRIEFINGS (IPGS, DTG, MTGS, MIBS)

The DDCCG does not commission and will not fund any procedure or technology assessed by NICE under their IPG, MTG, DTG and MIB programmes unless:

- the provider has submitted a robust, evidenced based business case to the commissioner and this has been subsequently approved AND
- the NICE IPG states 'use with standard arrangements for clinical governance, consent and audit'
- OR the NICE MTG states 'the case for adoption within the NHS as described is supported by the evidence'
- OR the NICE DTG makes a recommendation as an option for use
- OR the NICE MIB has evaluated the innovation.

The following NICE programme outputs were noted by the group for the month of April

IPG/MTG/DTG/MIB	Description	Outcome
IPG691	Melphalan chemosaturation with percutaneous hepatic artery perfusion and hepatic vein isolation for primary or metastatic cancer in the liver	Special – not commissioned
IPG692	Repetitive short-pulse transscleral cyclophotocoagulation for glaucoma	Research – not commissioned
IPG693	Deep brain stimulation for chronic, severe, treatment-resistant obsessive-compulsive disorder in adults	Research – not commissioned
MIB256	RenalSense Clarity RMS for acute kidney injury	Not commissioned without the provider submitting a robust, evidenced based business case to the commissioner and subsequent approval
MIB257	microINR for anticoagulation therapy	Not commissioned without the provider submitting a robust, evidenced based business case to the commissioner and subsequent approval

Our CCG continues to monitor and implement IPGs with our main providers.

NHS ENGLAND INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY PAYMENTS (ITP)

The DDCCG have no statutory duty to fund the additional costs associated with the implementation of NHS England's Innovation and Technology Payment innovations.