

8<sup>th</sup> August 2019

Dear Colleague,

**Update to the implementation of the Derby and Derbyshire Procedures of Limited Clinical Value (PLCV) Policy**

Following the recent communication to GP practices from the Local Medical Committee we wish to clarify Derby and Derbyshire CCG's (DDCCG) position, and allay any potential concerns and misconceptions:

- Practices should continue to work with the PLCV policy, making referrals for procedures or opinions using the referral templates wherever possible
- The PLCV policy is an evidence based policy and our local provider Trusts are now contractually obliged to follow this policy using a prior approval process
- It is important that primary care support this referral process so that relevant GP held information follows the patient in a consistent and efficient way (ref 9b GMC Good Medical Practice). The secondary care clinician can then make an informed decision on PLCV procedure in line with the policy.
- The decision for the procedure will be ultimately made by secondary care, if relevant GP held information is not received in secondary care this may cause delays to the patient in receiving an appropriate intervention
- Secondary care may contact the referring GP for further clinically relevant information. This is not a shift of responsibility to primary care and following the prior approval process will avoid this
- It is recognised that in many cases GPs are not referring for a specific procedure rather a referral for a specialist opinion based on a patient's symptoms and history. As a result we are refining the referral templates to give an option to refer for an opinion
- Evidence suggests, from other areas of the NHS that have introduced similar prior approval for PLCV policy, that the absolute number of referrals relevant to PLCV are a small percentage of all referrals, accounting for 2 or 3 non-urgent referrals per week for an average sized practice. The referral templates have been designed to be simple using tick boxes and minimising text boxes
- The Prior Approval Team is in place to support GPs in the provision of relevant patient information from primary to secondary care
- The Prior Approval Team, send out patient letters, and forward onto secondary care, therefore alleviating some of the work currently carried out by practices, which in turn will minimise queries from secondary care and ensure a smooth process/pathway for the patient.

The PLCV Policy, referral templates and approval process have been developed in close collaboration with local GPs and consultants. Nevertheless the DDCCG is committed to understand and learn from users and stakeholders as this new service becomes established.

If you are experiencing any issues or if you have any suggestions/comments please contact the Prior Approval Team on [plcv.priorapproval@nhs.net](mailto:plcv.priorapproval@nhs.net) and we will endeavour to support you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a final downward stroke, representing the name Dr Steve Lloyd.

**Dr Steve Lloyd**  
Medical Director, Derby and Derbyshire CCG