

Ref: FOI/00459/CMICB
11 July 2023

Dear

**Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000
Menopause Guideline & Women's Healthcare Strategy**

Thank you for your information request indicated in bold below, which has now been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 by NHS Cheshire & Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB). I am able to provide you with the following information and responses.

Please note from 01 July 2022, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) were disestablished, and their statutory functions and responsibilities inherited by NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB.

Your Request:

1) Does the ICS/ICB have a menopause guideline(s)?

1a) If so, please provide the date of inception for the guideline(s) and the date of any subsequent update.

1b) The name, title and other role designation(s) of the clinical lead for the guideline(s), and any URL to where the guideline(s) can be viewed on your website.

1c) If there is guidance, when is this due to be updated/reviewed?

Our Response:

1) NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB does not have its own separate menopause guidelines and instead follow National and International Guidelines in respect of menopause. These include those produced by the British Menopause Society (BMS) and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). Details of which can be found on the BMS website via the following link: <https://thebms.org.uk/publications/overview/>. These include Consensus Statements and Tools for Clinicians.

The ICB and secondary care work closely with NHS England. Cheshire and Merseyside have a Menopause Special Interest Group (SIG), with diverse membership including representation from primary and secondary care, along with special interest groups.

With the aim of ensuring that women can access the same standard of care across the region, irrespective of locality. A comprehensive clinician training program, including both primary and secondary care, is underway using the BMS Principals and Practice of Menopause Care Program and delivering training at both Certificate and Advanced Certificate level. Dr Paula Briggs is Chair of the Menopause SIG and Chair of the BMS.

The BMS guidance listed above is embedded within services across the ICB and have been adhered to since inception of the ICB on 01 July 2022 as well as being subject to peer review and updated regularly. We also respond to regular alerts in relation to patient safety and issues with HRT product supply.

Your Request:

2) Does the ICS/ICB have any menopause pilots? (please include any pilot projects and indicate their status).

Our Response:

2) NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB does not currently have any menopause pilots specifically. However, as previously advised the ICB has a Menopause Special Interest Group (SIG) which brings together a range of clinicians and partners to develop future menopause strategy and pilot work. The Menopause SIG has conducted a menopause survey and will utilise the results from this to determine it's future workplan along with ongoing feedback from a series of events with women and families and employers across Cheshire & Merseyside.

Your Request:

3) Is a women's healthcare strategy a priority?

3a) If so, please identify commissioning approaches and any commissioned services (existing or planned) that support the priority(ies)

Our Response:

3) Yes, NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB has a Women's Health and Maternity Programme which is leading on a women's healthcare strategy and working with commissioners across Places (former CCG areas) and Local Authorities to develop future approaches for commissioning women's health services,

Your Request:

4) Does the ICS/ICB have a women's healthcare lead?

4a) If so, who performs that role? Please state name, title and other role designation(s)

4b) If not, please indicate any intention to appoint a women's healthcare lead and any related timeframe for the appointment.

Our Response:

4) NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB's executive lead for women's healthcare services is Chris Douglas MBE, Director of Nursing and Care.

Your Request:

5) Does your locality have a Women's Health Hub (defined as delivering services in the community that better fit around women's lives and streamline access to women's health services

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/25-million-for-womens-health-hub-expansion>)?

5a) If you do not currently have a Women's Health Hub, is this within the strategy for women's services for your area?

Our Response:

5) Yes, there are Women's Health Hubs in Liverpool, and a trial currently in Wirral.

Your Request:

6) Given the government's intention to improve access to HRT for women, does the ICS/ICB have any targets around HRT usage in menopausal women?

Our Response:

6) NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB does not have any targets around HRT usage in menopausal women.

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

We also wish to take this opportunity to inform you that, where you are not satisfied with the response to your request for information, a formal complaints and internal review process is available.

This can be formally requested by emailing foi@cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk and must be done within a reasonable time period (3 calendar months) from the date this response was issued.

Where you remain dissatisfied with our review under the Freedom of Information Act or the Environmental Information Regulations, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) for a review of your appeal decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at;

*The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
www.ico.gov.uk*

Should you need any further clarification or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us quoting the above FOI reference.