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Re: Freedom of Information Request

Further to your recent FOI request, you asked for further information on Thursday 22nd January 2015.

In regards to the Spire Contract you sent back the following query:

There appear to be only two conditions which are covered. These are ACL and Carpal Tunnel Syndrome. I know there are many others (including those in which my personal interest lies: knee arthroscopy and patellar resurfacing) but I could find no mention of any other than Carpal Tunnel and ACL.

Am I missing something, please?

Patella resurfacing is a commissioned service, however there is no specific service specification for this procedure in the contract. Patella resurfacing is covered by a generic Healthcare Resource Group code (HRG), a HRG code is a clinically meaningful group of diagnoses and interventions that use similar levels of NHS resources. For example, there are a number of different knee-related procedures that all require similar levels of resource; they may all be assigned to one HRG.

Patella Resurfacing is coded to a HRG for reconstruction procedures category 2 (HR05Z) and forms part of Spire's activity plan for the year. Spire have 64 HR05Z codes in the plan for this year but due to these being grouped together to HR05Z and made up of various other procedures we are unable to specify how many of these relate to patella resurfacing.

Knee Arthroscopy is included in the contract as a service specifications p24-p26. Where there is no specific service specification for a procedure the contract requires the provider to provide services and perform its obligations in accordance with Good Practice and this includes good clinical practice.

I hope this sufficiently answers your FOI enquiry however if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact a member of the FOI team (contact details at the top of this letter).

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