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Our Ref: ID903

## Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which was received into this office on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2017.

### You Asked for:

- 1. Please state the total number of orthopaedic referrals from primary care in A) 2015/16.**

In 2015/16 NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning had 7,760 referrals to Trauma and Orthopaedics (Treatment Function Code 110) from Primary Care (GPs)

**And**

#### **B) 2016/17**

In 2016/17 NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning had 6,936 referrals to Trauma and Orthopaedics (Treatment Function Code 110) from Primary Care (GPs)

- 2. Please state the total number of referrals from primary care for cataract treatment in A) 2015/16 and B) 2016/17.**

NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group are not able to identify those patients who were referred for cataract treatment from the Referrals data source received (only Ophthalmology referrals). I suggest that you contact the provider directly on:

Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust  
[wih-tr.AccessToInformationOffice@nhs.net](mailto:wih-tr.AccessToInformationOffice@nhs.net)

- 3. A) What are the current eligibility guidelines/criteria for referrals for orthopaedic procedures? Please cut and paste any relevant information or provide a link (and page number if relevant) to the relevant website/document.**

NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group refers to NICE Guidelines, the British Orthopaedic Association / Royal College of Surgeons and specialist research papers to support orthopaedic referrals. More information can be found through the following links:

<https://www.boa.ac.uk/training-education/royal-college-of-surgeons>

<https://www.nice.org.uk/Search?q=orthopaedic>

In addition, section 16 of Wirral's 2017/2018 Policy for Procedures of Low Clinical Value and its Addendum is in place to support appropriate referrals. The policy and addendum are available to download from the Wirral CCG website:

<https://www.wirralccg.nhs.uk/about-us/policies/procedures-of-low-clinical-priority/>

**B) When were these current guidelines introduced?**

The Policy was published 1st April 2017 and amended 1st August 2017

**4. A) What are the current eligibility guidelines/criteria for referrals for cataract treatment? Please cut and paste any relevant information or provide a link (and page number if relevant) to the relevant website/document. B) When were these current guidelines introduced?**

NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group refers to NICE Guidelines and the Royal College of Ophthalmology to support cataract referrals. New Nice Guidance is currently under development, consultation has been undertaken and the final guidance is due to be published in October 2017. More information can be found through the following links:

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/indevelopment/gid-cgwave0741>

Cataract Guidance by the Royal College of Ophthalmology was published in September 2010, this is available to download from the Royal College of Ophthalmology website:

<https://www.rcophth.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/2010-SCI-069-Cataract-Surgery-Guidelines-2010-SEPTEMBER-2010.pdf>

In addition, section 11.5 of Wirral's 2017/2018 Policy for Procedures of Low Clinical Value is in place to support appropriate referrals. The policy is available to download from the Wirral CCG website:

<https://www.wirralccg.nhs.uk/about-us/policies/procedures-of-low-clinical-priority/>

This policy for cataract referrals will be reviewed following the publication of the new NICE Guidance in October 2017.

We hope this information is useful, however if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Corporate Affairs Team (contact details at the top of this letter)

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