

Ref: FOI/00446/CMICB  
11 July 2023

Dear

**Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Surgical Hubs**

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) What criteria did Cheshire and Merseyside ICS use to decide on the specific procedures, methodologies and equipment that would be used to complete the surgeries delivered by the surgical hubs commissioned by the Integrated Care System?**
- 2) What public and patient consultation did Cheshire and Merseyside ICS carry out surrounding the specific procedures, methodologies and equipment that would be used to complete the surgical interventions delivered by the surgical hubs commissioned by the Integrated Care System; and can the ICS share any assessment, analysis or reporting done following this consultation?**

**Our Response:**

1 - 2) Cheshire & Merseyside ICS's surgical hubs have been developed by Cheshire and Merseyside Acute and Specialist Trust (CMAST) provider collaborative, in sight of the ICB and its forerunners, following the allocation of NHSE capital as an extension of existing system care provision. Any new facilities are positioned as system resources and their primary aim is to provide service resilience and a dedicated 'cold site' capacity which in turn supports elective recovery. The hubs were designed by a clinical group, using risk stratification methodology to assess which procedures would be appropriate for that care setting. In addition the nationally available Getting it Right First Time (GIRFT) recommendations and clinical pathways were used. The equipment for each hub maps directly to the procedures being undertaken.

More information can be found on the GIRFT website:  
<https://gettingitrightfirsttime.co.uk/>. The development of the surgical hubs in Cheshire and Merseyside were not subject to formal public consultation.

**Your Request:**

**3) What discussions or analysis has Cheshire and Merseyside ICS had or conducted on the need to adjust the way surgeries are delivered by the surgical hubs commissioned by the ICS, to make the delivery more efficient; and can the ICS share minutes of any discussion, or a copy of any analysis conducted?**

**Our Response:**

3) Cheshire & Merseyside ICS's approach has been guided and used publicly available "best practice" recommendations which guide how best to deliver elective surgical pathways. No unique adjustments to this approach have been made for surgical hubs, other than to ensure that facilities meet the safety and quality standards expected within those clinical environments. This includes recommendations on the types of cases to be undertaken in surgical hubs and also the levels of efficiency to be achieved within those clinical environments. Please see the GIRFT website for more information:  
<https://gettingitrightfirsttime.co.uk/>.

**Your Request:**

**4) Which specific procedures are conducted by Healthcare Professionals within each surgical intervention available in the surgical hubs commissioned by Cheshire and Merseyside ICS; and b) can the ICS provide a list of any applicable NICE Guidance followed within the surgeries carried out in the surgical hubs commissioned by Cheshire and Merseyside ICS?**

**Our Response:**

4) The surgical hubs in Cheshire & Merseyside ICB are designed as flexible system resources so that they are able to undertake a wide range of procedures that are safe and appropriate for the "cold site" settings. The procedures include cataract surgery, hip and knee joint replacements, upper limb procedures and gynecological procedures. NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB would expect all procedures undertaken at surgical hubs to follow the relevant corresponding National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidance. Copies of all NICE guidance are publicly available on the NICE website via:  
<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/published?ndt=Guidance&ndt=Quality%20standard>

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](mailto: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](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

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