

Guide to Hunts Care Partners Local Commissioning Group

This short guide is intended to provide you with information about the Hunts Care Partners (HCP) Local Commissioning Group.

What is a Local Commissioning Group?

A Local Commissioning Group is the name that has been given to a group of GP practices who have chosen to come together to commission (buy) health services for their local communities.

Hunts Care Partners Local Commissioning Group will be responsible for commissioning (buying) NHS services for patients that have been commissioned historically by NHS Cambridgeshire (the primary care trust for Cambridgeshire).

HCP Local Commissioning Group will be responsible for commissioning hospital services and community services (for example district nurses) and mental health services to people living in Huntingdonshire and the surrounding area.

Why the move to Local Commissioning Groups?

Health services have historically been commissioned by primary care trusts (PCTs). This way of buying in services means that GPs, who are the best placed to advise on their patients needs, have been too far removed from the process.

In 2009/2010 NHS Cambridgeshire reviewed its five year plan and developed a number of priority areas on which to focus. One priority was to work in partnership with GPs to develop a more devolved system of commissioning, which would take into account local knowledge and expertise of GPs.

The Health & Social Care Bill 2011, reinforces this view and, in time, much of the responsibility for commissioning health services will be given over to groups of clinicians.

Priorities for health

Hunts Care Partners Local Commissioning Group have been working with NHS Cambridgeshire and other local NHS partners to identify the priorities that patients have said they want from their health care. As part of the pilot scheme, it is expected that priorities will be further developed in the coming months.

Below is a list of some of the initial priorities for Hunts Care Partners Local Commissioning Group:

- **Reduce A&E attends** – to develop ways to make the best use of services and to improve patient care and experience by increasing the efficiency of services.

- **Reduce Pathology testing** – work with primary care clinicians to improve on quality and clinical outcomes and together gain a better understanding of pathology tests and their validity to diagnosis and treat.
- **Coeliac pathway redesign** –to improve the quality of care for coeliac patients with low risk symptoms, so that they can remain in the community under the care of their GP and avoid annual reviews with hospital consultants.
- **Non GP referrals/reduction in acute utilisation** –to understand how and when these referrals are necessary and where appropriate either redirect patients to more appropriate health services or develop services that meet the needs of patients.
- **Patient education** – Patients play an important role in their own health and well-being. It has been widely recognised that adapting patient behaviour and helping them make informed choices is key to supporting a healthy lifestyle.
- **DVT pathway redesign** - to develop a local set of clinically approved guidelines (based on best practice) in order to identify patients with a low risk of DVT and to treat them at the doctor's surgery. High risk DVT patients will be identified using the same approach and referred to Hinchingbrooke Hospital.
- **Redesign of AF/HF pathway** – work to develop local health services (based on best practice) so that many patients avoid hospital visits and use services which are based in the community.
- **Allergy clinic** – work with an identified local GP with a specialist interest in allergies to explore more community services. Initial work will focus on allergies to cow's milk.

GP Practices in the HCP Local Commissioning Group

At present there are 14 GP practices who have formed the HCP Local Commissioning Group. These are as follows:

- Alconbury & Brampton
- Almond Road
- Cedar House
- Church Street
- Cromwell Place
- Buckden/Little Paxton
- Northcote House
- Parkhall
- Riverside Surgery
- St Neots Health Centre

- The Moat House
- The Orchard Surgery
- The Spinney Surgery
- Wellside Surgery

Lead GP

The lead GP (Chair) in the HCP Local Commissioning Group is Dr Malav Bhimpuria who is based at Alconbury & Brampton Surgery.

Alconbury & Brampton Surgeries
School Lane
Alconbury
Huntingdon PE28 4EQ

We have two Patient Representatives who sit on our Leadership Team - they can be contacted via the Hunts Area Office on 01480 354362.

What does this mean for patients?

As the GP Commissioning Cluster develops its commissioning the patients will benefit from;

- More local care available for patients
- Greater accountability to patients
- Swifter decision making and change
- More locally developed methods of treatment for patients
- More cost effective services

Further information

Please contact NHS Cambridgeshire's Communications Team:

Lorraine Rollo t 01223 725321 or email lorraine.rollo@cambridgeshire.nhs.uk