

FOI 015775

16/9/21

Dear the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust.

Thank you for your response and I must commend you on what you have produced in relation to the specification/assessments as it surpasses what other Trusts have produced.

It is however with regret that I ask you to perform an Internal Review as I do need responses to all of my questions in order for my research.

Please see below the questions asked, responses given and my comments to help you understand why I have asked for this internal review to be conducted.

1. The 2019/2020 annual self-assessment that was submitted via the Quality Surveillance Programme relating to the Specialised Vascular Services (Adult) Specification 170004/S.

Your response: Attachment "201920 Annual Self Assessment Document.pdf".

**My comments: I would like to see the full document i.e. including the indicator descriptors/notes that you have omitted from the portal output.**

Although I am almost 100% sure that all Trusts questioned received the same descriptors/notes I cannot be certain without the full document/text for each indicator.

- The self-assessment document provided includes the questions asked of the service. All notes provided are also included at the bottom of the document. NHS Specialised Services are an external organisation, they are a commissioning body that sit under NHSE/I. The 2019/20 self-assessment document has already been provided anything more detailed would not be available through the Trust but through NHSE/i.

~~2. If the Main Arterial centre declared a positive result (stated Yes)/compliance with indicator 170004S-001 - "There is an agreement outlining the network configuration", then I request copies of the evidence documents: operational policy (or part of) that supported this positive declaration.~~

~~Your response: Attachment "BCVC operational policies Redacted.pdf"~~

~~My Comments: I noted the date of the last document review was 2012, nine years ago, however, it appears well written but more importantly relevant for its purpose. Questioned answered in full.~~

~~3. If the Main Arterial centre declared a positive result (stated Yes)/compliance with indicator 170004S-017 - "There are patient pathways in place", then I request copies of the evidence documents: operational policy (or part of) including pathways that supported this positive declaration.~~

~~I have omitted the descriptor for brevity.~~

~~Your response: Attachment "Vascular Clinical Pathways.pdf"~~

~~My comments: Job well done, Thank you, question answered in full.~~

4. If the Main Arterial centre declared a positive result (stated Yes)/compliance with indicator 170004S-021 - "There are clinical guidelines in place", then I request copies of the evidence documents: operational policy (or part of) including guidelines that supported this positive declaration.

In order to reduce the scope of this part of the request, I include part of the indicator description that highlights my main interest:

Descriptor:

The AC should agree with relevant service providers and relevant commissioners, network wide clinical guidelines for patients with:

- peripheral arterial disease including amputation;
- vascular injury

The guidelines should cover diagnosis, assessment, treatment and follow up.

Notes:

Clinical guidelines cover guidelines, protocols, 'SOPs' which describe how to manage a patient in a given clinical situation or specified point on the pathway. Examples include assessment checklists, surgical procedures, treatment protocols, key investigations at follow-up visits etc.

The Centre may wish to agree additional clinical guidelines to those specified in the indicators.

Network guidelines should be compliant with current national guidelines where relevant.

Your response: ?

**My comments: May I ask where are your network wide clinical guidelines or the list of those that your network members have all agreed to follow, even if it is just a simple document with a list of pointers to nationally recognised clinical guidelines?**

Please see attached appendix 1 clinical pathways 8.8.12)