Our Ref: FOI.14.DGS0161

RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Thanks you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 received on 13 January 2014 by NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group. The information you have requested is listed below together with the response:

Questions about anticoagulant services for the Clinical Commissioning Group

1) Does your CCG commission an anticoagulation service?

We can confirm NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley CCG does commission an anticoagulation service.

If yes, please answer a, b and c. If no, go to question 2.

a. Please provide further details of the commissioning arrangements, including whether it is delivered through i) a block contract or ii) payment by results.

Payment is based on a cost per case

b. Is the service located in i) primary care ii) secondary care or iii) in both primary and secondary care?

The service is located in primary care

c. Has the anticoagulation service been reviewed? If so when?

The service is currently in the process of being reviewed

2) Does your CCG allow people on long-term warfarin the opportunity to

   a. Self-manage their condition?
   b. Self-test their condition?

Individual GPs may have an agreement with individual patients who are on long-term Warfarin and who wish to self-test. This is a GP/patient agreement and not a CCG initiative.

NB: Self-manage: A person who tests his or her International Normal Ratio (INR) themselves via a fingerprick blood test and then adjusts his or her own warfarin dosage (within the limits set by their healthcare professional).
NB: Self-test: A person who tests his or her INR themselves using a fingerprick blood test on an INR monitoring device, and then contacts his or her healthcare professional to adjust the warfarin dose.


3) Does your CCG policy on self-monitoring differ depending on a person’s condition and the reason for anticoagulation? e.g. those who have a heart valve, under 18 or those with Atrial Fibrillation (AF)?

The CCG does not have a policy on this. However, self-monitoring is not appropriate for those on short-term Warfarin treatment, due to the length of time required to train and learn the process.

4) If your CCG does not allow people on long-term warfarin to self-monitor, is there a particular reason? Please state the reason(s)

No, this is a matter for individual GPs to agree with patients if they are happy for them to do so.

5) Does your CCG publish any guidelines/guidance around self-monitoring?

No

If yes, please answer a, b and c. If no, go to question 6.

a. When the guidelines/guidance around self-monitoring last were reviewed?

b. What timeframe do your guidelines/guidance cover? i.e. 1 year, 2 years etc.

c. When will they next be reviewed?

6) What is your CCG’s policy regarding prescribing of test strips for people who self-monitor INR?

a. Test strips are available to patients by NHS prescription

b. Test strips are available on private prescription only

c. Test strips are available to patients by NHS prescription up to a certain limit (please specify limit); thereafter, the patient must pay for them privately.

They are not available on prescription and would have to be privately obtained.

7) Does your CCG offer any support to people who would like to find out more information about self-monitoring e.g. leaflets, written information, how to access an anticoagulation nurse? If so, please describe.

There is no support around self-monitoring