RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 received on 20 January 2014 by NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group. The information you have requested is listed below together with the response:

We would like to request the following information on the four treatments listed below:

- Are the four treatments listed below routinely available to patients under the indications specified by the below NICE TAGs in your CCG area?

NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group routinely make the treatments mentioned below available to patients.

- Details of any additional criteria to the TAG criteria / interpretation of the TAG criteria which is placed on the availability of these four treatments

NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group have no additional criteria on the availability of the treatment mentioned.

- The number of patients treated with each treatment in line with the indication specified in the TAG since the time when each treatment should have been available to patients (which is listed below alongside each treatment name)

I can confirm NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group does not hold this information. Under Section 16 of the FOI Act 2000 (advice and assistance) we believe this information may be held at the East Kent Hospital University Foundation NHS Trust (EKHUFT). Their contact details are as follows: foi.recordsoffice@ekht.nhs.uk

- The number of Individual Funding Requests made for each treatment since the date when the treatment should have been made available to patients (which is listed below alongside each treatment name).

There have been no IFR request made to NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group.

If the any of the treatments are not routinely available to patients under the specified indications (below) or require an Individual Funding Request in order to access the treatment then please also provide:
Meeting minutes of meetings since November 2012 in which the approval of use of that treatment has been discussed.

The four treatments and their indications

1. Ocriplasmin (TA297) was approved for use in vitreomacular traction in October 2013 and should have been made available to patients in January 2014

Ocriplasmin is recommended as a possible treatment for adults with an eye condition called vitreomacular traction who also have:

- no epiretinal membrane (a thin layer of scar tissue over their retina, the light-sensitive area at the back of the eye) and a hole (up to 400 micrometers) in the centre of their retina or
- severe sight problems.

http://guidance.nice.org.uk/TA297

Ocriplasmin- NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group completed their Blueteq form. Treatment became available from 23 January 2014. However there have not been any requests to date.

NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group have not received any applications for individual funding to date.

2. Aflibercept (TA294) was approved for use in macular degeneration (wet age-related) in July 2013 and should have been available to patients by October 2013

Aflibercept is recommended as a possible treatment for people with wet AMD if all the following apply to their eye:

- The best possible visual acuity after correction with glasses or contact lenses is between 6/12 and 6/96.
- There is no permanent damage to the fovea (the part of the eye that helps people to see things in sharp detail).
- The area affected by AMD is no larger than 12 times the size of the area inside the eye where the optic nerve connects to the retina.
- There are signs that the condition has been getting worse.
- Treatment should be stopped if a person's vision gets worse and there are changes inside the eye which show that treatment isn’t working.

http://guidance.nice.org.uk/TA294

NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group completed their Blueteq and treatment is available. There have not been any notifications to date.

NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group have not received any applications for individual funding to date.
3. Ranibizumab (TA283) was approved for use in macular oedema (following retinal vein occlusion) in May 2013 and should have been available to patients by August 2013.

You should be able to have ranibizumab if:

- you have central retinal vein occlusion or
- you have branch retinal vein occlusion and you have had laser treatment (grid laser photocoagulation) that hasn’t worked or it is not suitable for you because of the amount of bleeding in your eye.

http://guidance.nice.org.uk/TA283

NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group completed their Bluteq and treatment is available. There have not been any notifications to date.

NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group have not received any applications for individual funding to date.

4. Ranibizumab (TA274) was approved for use in diabetic macular oedema in February 2013 and should have been made available to patients by May 2013.

Ranibizumab is recommended as an option for treating visual impairment due to diabetic macular oedema only if:

- the eye has a central retinal thickness of 400 micrometres or more at the start of treatment and
- the manufacturer provides ranibizumab with the discount agreed in the patient access scheme revised in the context of this appraisal.

http://guidance.nice.org.uk/TA274

NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group completed their Bluteq and treatment is available. There have been 6 notifications received to date.

NHS Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group have not received any applications for individual funding to date.