Dear

Freedom of Information Request

Further to your Freedom of Information Request dated 23 July 2018 is below/attached.

1. The number of elective (a) spinal surgeries, (b) non-surgical treatments for lower back pain and (c) spinal cord stimulation treatments for chronic pain funded each year in 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>DGS 13-14</th>
<th>DGS 14-15</th>
<th>DGS 15-16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spinal Surgeries</td>
<td>996</td>
<td>984</td>
<td>1222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-surgical treatments</td>
<td>1880</td>
<td>1889</td>
<td>1529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spinal cord stimulation</td>
<td>NHSE commissioned Service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. The number of successful Individual Funding Requests (or equivalent procedure) made for each of (a) spinal surgeries, (b) non-surgical treatment for lower back pain and (c) spinal cord stimulation treatments for chronic pain funded each year in 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18.

(a) spinal surgeries
No Individual Funding Requests have been approved for spinal surgeries during the given period.

(b) non-surgical treatment for lower back pain
No Individual Funding Requests have been approved for non-surgical treatment for lower back pain during the given period. Spinal injections for low back pain have been included in Kent and Medway’s Referral and Treatment Criteria since
December 2017 (see attached extract). Prior to December 2017, some injections were available through local policies, as below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>App Rcvd date</th>
<th>CCG</th>
<th>Treatment / Issue</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22.04.16</td>
<td>DGS</td>
<td>Pain Management</td>
<td>Facet Joint Injection</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(c) spinal cord stimulation treatments for chronic pain
Since 2013 spinal cord stimulation comes under the remit of NHS England. This position is clarified in the attached current Referral and Treatment Criteria.

Although we have received enquiries from non-NHS England designated centres, the Kent and Medway CCGs have advised that as this treatment is within NHS England’s remit, patients should be referred to NHSE designated centres only. Referrers have been advised accordingly.

3. The number of unsuccessful Individual Funding Requests (or equivalent procedure) made for each of (a) spinal surgeries, (b) non-surgical treatments for lower back pain and (c) spinal cord stimulation treatments for chronic pain funded each year in 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18.

(a) spinal surgeries
No Individual Funding Requests have been declined for spinal surgeries during the given period.

(b) non-surgical treatment for lower back pain
No Individual Funding Requests have been declined for non-surgical treatment for lower back pain during the given period.

(c) spinal cord stimulation treatments for chronic pain
As per previous answer, since 2013 spinal cord stimulation comes under the remit of NHS England. This position is clarified in the attached current Referral and Treatment Criteria.

Although we have received enquiries from non-NHS England designated centres, the Kent and Medway CCGs have advised that as this treatment is within NHS England’s remit patients should be referred to NHSE designated centres only. Referrers have been advised accordingly.

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If you are unhappy with the service that you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision you should write to Complaints. NHS Dartford Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group
If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint or review, you may apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Clinical Commissioning Group. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioners Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Telephone: 08456 306060 or 01625 54 57 45
www.ico.gov.uk

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.