

CEOs of ICBs  
COOs of ICBs  
CMOs of ICBs  
CNOs of ICBs  
CFOs of ICBs

Via Midlands Regional Operations Centre

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Dear Colleagues,

### **Re: Gender Services for Adults**

We are writing to you to provide clarity about responsibilities for arrangements for gender services for adults. As you may be aware, there has been confusion for some time on responsibilities for prescribing hormone treatment to patients who have been treated at Gender Dysphoria Clinics. The following regional position has been reached and reflects the extensive discussions and review of the various pertinent national policies, the Service specification for Gender Identity Services for Adults (Non-Surgical Interventions)<sup>1</sup>. Gender Dysphoria Clinics (GDCs) are directly commissioned by NHSE as a specialised commissioned service.

1. GDCs are not commissioned to prescribe hormone treatment or to monitor it in the community. This responsibility is not in the service specification.
2. A review of the GP contract has concluded that gender affirming hormone prescribing and monitoring is not explicit in the core GP contract, although it is recognised that some GP teams may be comfortable prescribing, whilst others may not be due to complexity and the specific knowledge and expertise that is sometimes required to safely manage this cohort of patients.
3. Responsibility for the arrangements around prescribing and monitoring of this patient group lies with ICBs as part of their core purpose, ICBs exist to tackle health inequalities; one of the core functions of ICBs is arranging the provision of healthcare services.
4. Until national clarification about future pathways has been gained, ICBs are asked to ensure they are confident that they are sighted on their patient group and have arrangements in place to ensure continuity of care to mitigate the risk of harm from discontinuation of treatment (mental or physical harm). Where

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<sup>1</sup> [NHS England » Service specification: Gender Identity Services for Adults \(Non-Surgical Interventions\)](#)

risk has not been mitigated for any individual patient, ICBs are asked to escalate this through the normal routes.

In order to support conversations around how we can ensure safe continuity of care for gender dysphoria patients, NHSE will convene a regional working group led by Dr Vijay Rawal (Regional Medical Director of Primary Care) and Dr Colette Marshall (Regional Medical Director for Commissioning) to look at options on a multi-ICB footprint to support prescribing and monitoring for this patient group. The working group will have representatives from all Midlands ICBs and from the two Midlands GDCs.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

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