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21 December 2023

Re: Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000
Ref no: FOI-3617-L&SC

Thank you for your request dated 31 October 2023.

We can confirm that the ICB does hold the information you requested.

Please find our response to your questions below:

Q1	<p>Your Question:</p> <p>We would like to request information pertaining to the referral pathways for Gastroenterology and diagnostic endoscopy, General Ophthalmology, Cataracts and Dermatology within the NHS Lancashire & South Cumbria region.</p> <p>Could you please confirm the processes in which patients are offered choice for eligible providers and referred into these services, and, if possible, provide a referral pathway flow?</p> <hr/> <p>Our Response:</p> <p><u>Dermatology</u> Our commissioned provider receives referrals and undertakes a clinical triage to identify the level of care the patient needs. Once this stage is complete the provider offers the patient the choice of providers to attend, thereafter they will refer directly via eRS.</p> <p><u>Ophthalmology</u> Community ophthalmology services exist for cataract based treatment across the ICB. In addition, general ophthalmology exists within a number of settings including the four NHS Trust organisations and private providers.</p> <p>Access to each service is available via GP referral assuming patient eligibility based on presenting condition.</p>
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	<p><u>Diagnostic Endoscopy</u> Direct access to endoscopy is not currently available. Instead the initial pathway is via GP referral to secondary care gastroscopy, upper or lower GI depending on presenting condition.</p> <p>Community service provided by Alimentary solutions limited in respect of West Lancs patients</p> <p><u>Gastroenterology</u> Gastroenterology referral is available via eRs referral to secondary care. At point of referral, or at time referral is received by the referral management centre if available, patient choice of provider is offered</p> <p><u>Patient Choice</u> In all areas where choice is available, patients will be offered choice either at point of referral or upon receipt of initial referral via referral management centre service where available.</p>
Q2	<p>Your Question:</p> <p>We would also ask for confirmation of the Service Specifications along with a list of contracted providers for the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Ophthalmology • Cataracts • Dermatology • Gastroenterology and diagnostic endoscopy <p>Our Response:</p> <p><u>Ophthalmology</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust • Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust East Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust • University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust • Spire Healthcare • Ramsay Healthcare • Circle Health Group <p><u>Cataracts</u> CHEC, BTH community, Spa Medica and iSight operate via AQP contract across ICB for cataract treatment</p> <p><u>Dermatology</u> Any referrals that are NOT suspicious of cancer for patients across the ICB are now made to Omnes Healthcare, operating as Community Outpatients, who in turn sub contract South Lakes Dermatology Service.</p> <p><u>Diagnostic Endoscopy & Gastroenterology</u> Community service provided by Alimentary solutions limited in respect of West Lancs patients specification attached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust • Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust East Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust • University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spire Healthcare• Ramsay Healthcare• Circle Health Group |
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Gastroenterology

Specification is being clinically reviewed and not available for publication

Specifications relating to the acute hospitals all exist but are held within the master contracts for each Trust

Right of Appeal

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this response please do not hesitate to contact us. If you are dissatisfied with the response, you are entitled to request an internal review which should be formally requested in writing and must be within two calendar months from the date this response was issued.

To request an internal review

You can request this by contacting the FOI team by email at MLCSU.FOITeam@nhs.net or by post to Jubilee House, Lancashire Business Park, Leyland, PR26 6TR, specifying why you require a review.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the CCGs FOI complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF
www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

**On behalf of Kevin Lavery
ICB Chief Executive**