



Position Statement: Procedures of Limited Clinical Value (PLCV)

13 June 2018

The LMC has been working with colleagues from the CCG to try and improve and simplify the PLCV policy and its roll-out to general practice.

As per our previous [position statement](#); the LMC supports there being a policy which ensures that procedures performed are evidence-based, appropriate and equitable across the system. We did however raise concerns about the process being cumbersome and that it required revision to be fit-for-purpose.

As a result we have met with the PLCV team on a number of occasions. In the last week we have agreed the following:

1. **GPs should be mindful of the PLCV policy** and use the criteria to guide referrals for the listed procedures. GPs may find discussing the policy with the patient helps explain why a referral is / isn't appropriate and set realistic expectations. It should be also noted that the PLCV policy applies to the whole of Derbyshire and is system-wide, therefore secondary care clinicians will also have to adhere to the policy in making operative decisions.
2. **GPs are free to refer patients for an opinion** on a condition that is covered by the policy. **THIS DOES NOT REQUIRE SPECIFIC PAPERWORK / PRIOR APPROVAL** and can be done via an appropriate clinic on eRS using a standard referral letter. We would encourage you to refer with the policy in mind and include significant positive / negative findings as per the criteria.

The only exception to this is where a GP chooses to refer for direct access gastroscopy for dyspepsia. In these cases where the GP (rather than a specialist) is deciding the appropriateness of an intervention **a PLCV prior approval form must be completed.**

For those occasions **where a GP chooses to refer for a procedure** listed in the PLCV documentation **rather than an opinion, they should use the appropriate procedure-specific PLCV referral form.** Unfortunately, we have been unable to agree a single form for this, but are assured the forms will be audited within the first few months after roll-out to ascertain how they have been received by general practice and make any adjustments needed.

For further information, or to arrange an interview, please contact:
Dr Susie Bayley, Head of Communications, Derby and Derbyshire LMC

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4. The bulk of PLCV procedures to date have been musculoskeletal such as joint replacements. The new **MSK Clinical Assessment and Treatment Service** will include completion of the appropriate PLCV / prior approval documentation, thereby removing this workload from General Practice. The MSK CATS service is anticipated to be in place for August for the County and October for Derby City.

We hope this clarifies the situation, if you have any questions please contact us through the normal channels, and thank you for your patience whilst we have been working on this issue.

Dr Susie Bayley
Head of Communications
Derby and Derbyshire Local Medical Committee

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