

Update to North Yorkshire County Council Scrutiny of Health Committee – June 22nd 2019

Withdrawal of Minor Injuries Local Enhanced Scheme

Due to the CCG's challenging financial position and as part of the CCGs planning for 2019/20 we reviewed all contracts – including the Minor Injuries Local Enhanced Scheme (MI LES) - to see where savings could be made with least impact for the majority of our population.

The CCG considered a number of factors before a decision was made not to continue this scheme, these factors included:

- the CCG was/is undertaking a strategic review of its urgent care provision across Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby
- The CCG performance against A&E 4 hour targets was/is good and therefore reduces the necessity to pay for additional urgent care capacity in the community
- A&E services at the Friarage and Minor Injuries in Whitby are already provided by a block arrangement
- Activity and/or recording is variable and there are some practices where cost per case and /or block activity is absent or much lower than the average
- 23% of patients treated by the service in primary care were referred to A&E
- The on-going challenging CCG financial position

In view of the availability of Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC) or Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) services for the majority of our population within reasonable travelling distance and the comparatively low level of activity through the Minor Injuries Local Enhanced Scheme, (i.e. no practices seeing more than two patients per week and only 4 practices seeing more than one patient per week), the difficult decision was made to decommission this service from April 1st 2019.

Prior to actioning the withdrawal of the scheme the decision was shared with the Local Medical Council (LMC) in February 2019.

Subsequent to the decision to withdraw the service we were notified of concerns from several practices particularly in relation to rurality and access. Where a practice is less than 25 miles from the next nearest facility (UTC/MIU) it is the CCG's view that there are alternative services within a reasonable distance.

We do acknowledge that our decision causes inconvenience to some patients but are assured that alternative services are available to those patients. We provided information to practices affected to share with patient's signposting to those alternative services ahead of the MI LES withdrawal.

We have also received communications from patients who disagree with our decision but reassuringly we have not received any formal complaints or notification of any adverse patient experience or outcome incidents as a result of our decision.

Following feedback received from our super-rural practices (Central Dales & Reeth) the CCG agreed to reinstate individual practice arrangements for the minor injuries service as it was felt appropriate that those practices located more than 25 miles from the nearest alternative service needed to continue to provide the scheme outwith of the GP out of hospital basket.

The CCG continues to be committed to investing in primary care and providing care closer to home, as demonstrated by the investment in support for the frail elderly and practice based clinical community pharmacists for the next three years and that the development of primary care networks will also provide opportunities to redesign pathways of care centred on primary care.

We will continue to work with the GP practices to monitor the impact of the service withdrawal on both patient experience and outcomes.

Report Author: Lisa Pope, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Hambleton, Richmondshire and Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group, June 12th 2019.