November 2015

Submitting a proposal for consideration by the Prescribed Specialised Services Advisory Group (PSSAG)

# Legislative context

PSSAG is a Department of Health expert committee that was established in 2013 to provide ongoing advice to Ministers on whether services are specialised and should be nationally commissioned by NHS England, rather than locally commissioned by Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs).

Before deciding whether to make regulations setting out which services are specialised, the Secretary of State must obtain appropriate advice and have regard to the four statutory factors set out within the National Health Service Act 2006. These are:

* the number of individuals who require the provision of the service or facility;
* the cost of providing the service or facility;
* the number of persons able to provide the service or facility;
* the financial implications for clinical commissioning groups if they were required to arrange for the provision of the service or facility.

# Process

PSSAG considers the proposals with regard to the four statutory factors above and in developing its advice to Ministers will also give thought to:

* how activity can be identified to enable separate contracting, monitoring and payment;
* likely running costs associated with separate and direct commissioning;
* defining elements of the service to be commissioned; and
* the number of provider contracts NHS England is likely to need to develop to directly commission the service.

Anyone wishing to request that a service is considered by PSSAG should complete the pro-forma at Annex 1 to this document and email it to the Secretariat at sarah.samuel@dh.gsi.gov.uk.

When the Secretariat receives a proposal, it will:

* consider whether any additional information is required from the person/group submitting the proposal
* ask NHS England to seek a view from any relevant Clinical Reference Group (CRG)
* consider whether further input would be helpful from an alternative source, such as one of the Royal Colleges, a patient representative group or an expert in the field
* submit the proposal to PSSAG

If PSSAG is able to make a recommendation based on the information submitted to it and with regard to the four statutory factors, the Secretariat will then arrange for the recommendation to be passed to Ministers.

Before Ministers can make any decisions about which services should be included within the list of specialised services (found at Schedule 4 of The National Health Service Commissioning Board and Clinical Commissioning Groups (Responsibilities and Standing Rules) Regulations) they must first consult with NHS England. This is required by section 3B(4) of the National Health Service Act 2006 (as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012). Ministers will also consider whether a wider public consultation is appropriate. Following consideration of the consultation response(s), Ministers will make their decisions on which services should be included in the list of specialised services. The Secretariat will work with the Department of Health’s legal team to make the necessary amendments to the regulations.

# Secretariat

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ANNEX 1:

# Proposal for consideration by the Prescribed Specialised Services Advisory Group (PSSAG)

# Proposal

(Please set out briefly what the proposal is that you would like PSSAG to consider.)

# Background

(Please provide a few paragraphs of background about the service.)

# Rationale for need for nationally commissioned service

(Please explain why this proposal is being put to PSSAG for consideration.)

# Consideration of the four factors for a national specialised service

(Please consider the service against each of the four statutory factors (found in Section 3B of the National Health Service Act, as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012.)

1. The number of individuals requiring the provision of the service or facility

2. The cost of providing the service or facility

3. The number of persons able to provide the service or facility

4. The financial implications for CCGs if they were required to arrange for the provision of the service or facility

# Consideration of the three key questions for a national specialised service

(Please provide answers to each of these questions.)

1. How will activity be identified to enable separate contracting, monitoring and payment?

2. How many provider contracts will NHS England be likely to need to develop to directly commission the service?

3. Which elements of a service would be commissioned by NHS England and which by CCGs?