

Special Bulletin

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- **Item for all Practices**

Restriction of the NBT Neuro-Spinal Service to New Referrals – Effective 29th February 2016

Please see the attached letter from North Bristol NHS Trust concerning the implementation of new referral restrictions in its neuro-spinal service with effect from Monday, 29th February.

Full detail of the changes in access criteria are set out in the attached guidance appendices, but in summary:

- Elective referrals for Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) patients will continue to be accepted, although rules on direct referrals, pre-referral requirements, and conditions which are not accepted have been clarified;
- Elective referrals for patients from outside the BNSSG area will no longer be accepted;
- Emergency referrals for patients from across the South West will continue to be accepted in line with the attached guidance document.

This service restriction has been agreed by NHS England Specialised Commissioning South (South West) in line with the checklist for service restrictions which was adopted by the NHS England, Monitor, and Trust Development Authority South West Tripartite in December 2015.

The purpose of the service restriction is to ensure that all spinal referrals are managed in the same way, regardless of whether they are received by the NBT orthopaedic-spinal or neuro-spinal services. Where a patient is not eligible for referral into the neuro-spinal service, further guidance should be sought from the restricted orthopaedic-spinal service pathway on alternative management and treatment options.

If you have any queries or require any further information, please contact Luke Culverwell, Supplier Manager (Acute), Specialised Commissioning – NHS England South – Email: Luke.culverwell@nhs.net