

AMENDMENT TO

SERVICE SPECIFICATION FOR GENDER IDENTITY SERVICES FOR ADULTS (NON-SURGICAL INTERVENTIONS) / 1719

Effective 1 December 2020

1. The following amendment has been made to the Service Specification following the High Court's ruling of 1 December 2020 in the case of (1) Quincy Bell (2) Mrs A and Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust. The amendments shall apply to the current Service Specification from 1 December 2020 **only in regard to patients who are aged 17 years and who are prescribed puberty blockers on the recommendation of the patient's Lead Clinician.**
2. For patients who are aged 17 years and who are under the care of a Gender Dysphoria Clinic for adults, informed consent may be sought for the prescribing of puberty blockers so long as the patient has mental capacity and the Lead Clinician considers the treatment to be in the patient's best interests, and there is no parental dispute about the intervention. However, the High Court noted the long-term consequences for interventions which the Court described as 'experimental'. Therefore, in cases where a 17 year old is receiving or being considered for puberty blockers , the patient's Lead Clinician must review every such patient's individual circumstances, and to consider an application to the Court (through their NHS provider) for final determination of that individual's needs if there is doubt about the patient's 'best interests'.
3. From the age of 18 years the usual approach to ensuring informed consent will apply to the individual.