

Compliance with equality / inequalities legislation in the formation of clinical commissioning policy propositions

Service Specification for Specialised services for women with complications of mesh inserted for urinary incontinence and vaginal prolapse (16 years and above) [URN: 1758]

02 04 19

Advice from the National Programme of Care to Clinical Priorities Advisory Group

Summarise the responses to consultation that addressed the promotion of equality and reduction of health inequalities.

The service specification proposal will ensure that treatment takes place in a small number of designated hospitals in order to improve patient outcomes, safety and to stop occasional practice.

This new service specification will ensure that women will have access to clinicians with the right skills and experience.

Respondents raised some concerns regarding travel time and distance, transport costs and whether local after care would be compromised.

Whilst accepting that some patients may need to travel further, given the low number of procedures that will be taking place, access to designated hospitals and skilled and experienced clinicians is a central part of the aim for this service.

Would adoption of the policy proposition advance or hinder the promotion of equality for people with protected characteristics – if so, describe how;

The revised specification would neither advance or hinder the promotion of equality for people with protected characteristics.

Do the clinical criteria described in the policy proposition prejudice any particular groups with protected characteristics? If so, is the criteria supported by reliable clinical evidence?

The revised specification is not considered to prejudice any particular group with protected characteristics

Would adoption of the policy proposition increase or reduce inequalities between patients (general population) in access to health services and the outcomes achieved – if so, describe how. For example, would the policy make it more difficult in practice for a specific group to access services compared with other groups?

The revised service specification would not increase or reduce health inequalities between patient groups.