

- To:
- NHS Acute:
 - Chairs
 - Chief executives
 - Chief operating officers
 - NHS England and NHS Improvement regional directors

NHS England and NHS Improvement
Skipton House
80 London Road
London
SE1 6LH

2 March 2022

Dear colleagues

Re-statement of existing consultant-led Referral to Treatment (RTT) waiting time rules

Following publication of the [Delivery Plan for Tackling the Covid-19 Backlog of Elective Care](#), we are now writing to re-state the importance of accurate recording and reporting of RTT waiting time information, and to provide clarity and support.

We have developed the attached pack with the support of colleagues from the Elective Intensive Support Team. Our aim is to ensure greater understanding of the RTT rules with a focus on fitness for surgery or treatment, patient compliance, patient choice, and clinical prioritisation.

The attached document also includes guidance on how to manage patients who are unfit for treatment, or patients who may choose to delay their time of treatment for social or personal circumstances.

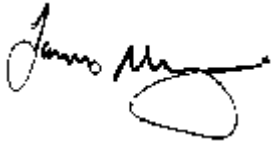
I would therefore ask you to ensure that:

- All RTT waiting lists are reviewed in line with the attached RTT rules and guidance to ensure this is applied consistently and correctly, particularly the application of active monitoring.
- Current waiting list policies are reviewed in line with current RTT rules and best practice guidance, which will include an internal audit review annually. This is to ensure policies and delivery are reflective of current policy as per the [Waiting List Management letter](#) sent from Pauline Philip in December.
- If training needs are identified and further support is required, please let the national team know via your regional lead.

Should you have any queries please email: england.iscoordination@nhs.net

Thank you for your continued effort and support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Mackey', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Sir James Mackey

National Director of Elective Recovery
NHS England and NHS Improvement