



**NORTH LONDON PARTNERS**  
in health and care

North Central London's sustainability  
and transformation partnership



# Procedures of Limited Clinical Effectiveness (PoLCE)

Joint Health Oversight and Scrutiny Committee  
5<sup>th</sup> October 2018

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North London Partners and Chair, Islington CCG

# Purpose of this paper

- We previously came to the JHOSC who advised on appropriate engagement for the review of the PoLCE policy being taken forward across NCL.
- The NCL level work is focusing on ensuring a consistent policy is applied across Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington and removing ambiguity in policy wording.
- Other reviews have been taking place at a regional and national level.
- Once the regional and national reviews are complete, CCGs will go through a process to decide whether to implement them including consulting the JHOSC.
- This paper outlines the three reviews and their timings.

# What is PoLCE?

- Procedures which have evidence of limited clinical effectiveness and that are appropriate for a patient to undergo only if a certain set of medical criteria are met.
- PoLCEs have been in place within the NHS for a long time and are regularly updated.
- ***PoLCE is not about withdrawing services, it is about making sure they are only offered when they will work for patients.***

# Update: NCL review

Region	Summary of work	Summary of engagement
NCL local level	<p>Using NHS Money Wisely is a clinically led and evidence based programme, it aims to ensure the NCL PoLCE policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is consistently applied across NCL</li> <li>• is presented using unambiguous language which is easy for clinicians to interpret</li> <li>• is regularly reviewed, updated and reissued using the most up to date and validated evidence base</li> <li>• is effectively and consistently communicated to health care professionals within NCL</li> <li>• has an open and transparent process, adhering to organisations' governance policies</li> </ul> <p>All NCL CCGs produced a single policy in 2015/16; (it is important to note, that the policy does not apply to suspected cancer (diagnosis should be dealt with via a two-week wait referral) or emergency or urgent care).</p> <p>A review of the current policy took place between September 2017 and August 2018. 35 policy areas have been updated.</p>	<p>We are committed to a programme of engagement with our key stakeholders, particularly public and patients and their representative groups, such as Healthwatch.</p> <p>The timetable for this is being developed in conjunction with Healthwatch to ensure we engage meaningfully with our population.</p> <p><b>*Please note, after guidance from the JHOSC on 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018 there will not be a formal public consultation as part of this policy update.</b></p>

# Update: London review

Region	Summary of work	Summary of engagement
London regional level	<p>'London Choosing Wisely' is the term used to describe a London wide programme to produce a new policy on eight areas with PoLCE.</p> <p>This has been run by NHS England (London Region).</p> <p>These eight policy reviews will be issued in October 2018. Once issued we will seek guidance from JHOSC on appropriate engagement.</p>	<p>The London Choosing Wisely review is advisory and the statutory duty for approval of any subsequent policy changes policies rests with each CCG governing body who will have the opportunity to further review and engage in line with local governance processes, before making a decision on updating the policy.</p> <p>London Choosing Wisely prepared a draft pan-London policy for the areas being considered (see appendix 1) and comments were recorded via an online feedback forms between August and September 2018.</p>

# Update: National review

Region	Summary of work	Summary of engagement
National level	<p>'Evidence Based Interventions' is the term used to describe a national policy review process for 17 areas within PoLCE, 15 of which already form part of the local NCL review.</p> <p>This is run by NHS England and includes a public consultation process.</p>	<p>A national public consultation ran from 4 July to 28 September 2018 .</p> <p>Full details of the areas under consideration and the rationale for the changes can be found in the <a href="#">consultation document</a> or via the dedicated website at: <a href="https://www.england.nhs.uk/evidence-based-interventions/">https://www.england.nhs.uk/evidence-based-interventions/</a></p>

# Timeline

Programme	2017	2018	2019
Local NCL review: Using NHS Money Wisely	Update and rollout of NCL policy		
London Region: London Choosing Wisely Programme		Mar – Oct 2018	
National review: Evidence Based Interventions			July 2018 – Jan 2019

Once the regional and national reviews are complete CCGs will go through a process to decide whether to implement them including consulting the JHOSC.

# Appendix 1 - London Choosing Wisely draft policies and FAQs

- [Draft policy for cataract surgery](#)
- [Draft policy for knee arthroscopy](#)
- [Draft policy for varicose veins procedures](#)
- FAQs: <https://www.healthylondon.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/London-choosing-wisely-FAQs-July-2018.pdf>

Please note, these are included for reference: the London feedback process for this was open August-September 2018



# Appendix 2 - Areas of PoLCE Policy under review across the three programmes

Programme	Procedures under review
<p><b>Local review: NCL Using NHS Money Wisely (PoLCE) comprises of 35 areas</b></p> <p>These are subject to final sign off by clinical leads for stakeholder engagement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vasectomy</li> <li>- Penile Procedures (Penile Implants)</li> <li>- Cholecystectomy for Gallstones</li> <li>- Chalazions (Internal Stye or Meibomian Cyst)</li> <li>- Inguinal Hernia</li> <li>- Abdominal (including incisional and umbilical) hernia</li> <li>- Divarication of Recti</li> <li>- Groin pain with clinical suspicion of hernia (obscure pain or swelling)</li> <li>- Recurrent and bilateral hernia</li> <li>- Cosmetic Surgery (Aesthetic) (Overview wording)</li> <li>- Keloidectomy [Keloid scars] or revision of hypertrophic scars</li> <li>- Treatment of Vascular Lesions (Port wine stains on the head and neck)</li> <li>- Injection of Botulinum Toxin</li> <li>- Hyperhidrosis</li> <li>- Vasectomy</li> <li>- Penile Procedures (Penile Implants)</li> <li>- Cholecystectomy for Gallstones</li> <li>- Chalazions (Internal Stye or Meibomian Cyst)</li> </ul>

Programme	Procedures under review
<p>Local review: NCL Using NHS Money Wisely (PoLCE) comprises of 35 areas (continued)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inguinal Hernia</li> <li>- Abdominal (including incisional and umbilical) hernia</li> <li>- Divarication of Recti</li> <li>- Groin pain with clinical suspicion of hernia (obscure pain or swelling)</li> <li>- Recurrent and bilateral hernia</li> <li>- Cosmetic Surgery (Aesthetic) (Overview wording)</li> <li>- Keloidectomy [Keloid scars] or revision of hypertrophic scars</li> <li>- Treatment of Vascular Lesions (Port wine stains on the head and neck)</li> <li>- Injection of Botulinum Toxin</li> <li>- Hyperhidrosis</li> <li>- Correction of Hair Loss (including male pattern baldness) (Alopecia)</li> <li>- Apronectomy or Abdominoplasty (Tummy Tuck)</li> <li>- Body Contouring (other skin excision for contour e.g. buttock lift, thigh lift, arm lift (Brachioplasty)</li> <li>- Blepharoplasty (Surgery on the lower or upper eyelid, Correction of Ptosis)</li> <li>- Treatment for Bartholin's Cysts</li> <li>- Dilatation and Curettage for Heavy Menstrual Bleeding</li> <li>- Hysterectomy for Heavy Menstrual Bleeding (HMB)</li> <li>- Labiaplasty</li> <li>- Uterovaginal Prolapse</li> <li>- Autologous Chondrocyte Implantation (ACI)</li> <li>- Carpal Tunnel Syndrome (Surgical treatment of)</li> <li>- Ganglion (Excision of Ganglia)</li> <li>- Dupuytren's Contracture (Fasciotomy/Fasciectomy (Surgical Treatment)</li> <li>- Trigger Finger</li> <li>- Knee Washout (in patients with knee osteoarthritis)</li> <li>- Bunions and Hallux Valgus</li> <li>- (Adenoidectomy) Tonsillectomy</li> <li>- Surgery for Sleep Related Breathing Disorder (SRDB)</li> </ul>

Programme	Procedures under review
Local review: NCL Using NHS Money Wisely (PoLCE) comprises of 35 areas (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Surgical Treatment of Chronic Rhinosinusitis</li> <li>- Rhinoplasty (Surgery to reshape the nose)</li> <li>- Complimentary &amp; Alternative Therapies</li> </ul>
<p><b>Regional review: The London Choosing Wisely Programme comprises of 8 areas</b></p> <p>There is no overlap between the NCL and London work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- surgical removal of benign skin lesions</li> <li>- interventional treatments for back pain</li> <li>- cataract surgery</li> <li>- shoulder decompression</li> <li>- varicose veins</li> <li>- knee arthroscopy</li> <li>- hip arthroplasty</li> <li>- knee arthroplasty</li> </ul>
<p><b>National review: Evidence Based Interventions comprises of 17 areas</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Snoring Surgery (in the absence of Obstructive Sleep Apnoea (OSA))</li> <li>- Dilatation and curettage (D&amp;C) for heavy menstrual bleeding in women</li> <li>- Knee arthroscopy for patients with osteoarthritis</li> <li>- Injections for nonspecific low back pain without sciatica</li> <li>- Breast reduction</li> <li>- Removal of benign skin lesions</li> <li>- Grommets for Glue Ear in Children</li> <li>- Tonsillectomy for recurrent tonsillitis</li> <li>- Haemorrhoid surgery</li> <li>- Hysterectomy for heavy menstrual bleeding</li> <li>- Chalazia removal</li> <li>- Arthroscopic shoulder decompression for subacromial shoulder pain</li> <li>- Carpal tunnel syndrome release</li> <li>- Dupuytren's contracture release</li> <li>- Ganglion excision</li> <li>- Trigger finger release</li> <li>- Varicose vein surgery</li> </ul>