

Consultation Report

Topic details

Title of Service Specification:	Hand and Upper Limb Transplant Service
Programme of Care:	Trauma
Clinical Reference Group:	Complex Rehabilitation and Disability
URN:	1685

1. Summary

This report summarises the outcome of a public consultation that was undertaken to test the service specification proposal.

2. Background

The hand and upper limb transplantation service is a highly specialised national service which works closely with local specialist rehabilitation and prosthetic services to support people with upper limb loss.

The service uses donor limbs to reconstruct an absent (or partially absent) hand or upper limb, lost as result of trauma, infection or a defective upper hand or limb.

Hand and upper limb transplantation would, ordinarily, only be offered to those for whom current reconstructive techniques or prostheses are unsuitable.

The service has been commissioned by NHS England since 2016, following approval of the associated clinical commissioning policy. This service specification has been written to provide an accurate description that it is reflective of current practice and to develop quality indicators against which the service can be monitored.

3. Publication of consultation

The service specification was published and sign-posted on NHS England's website and was open to consultation feedback for a period of 30 days from 8th February 2019 to 10th March 2019. Consultation comments have then been shared with the Policy Working Group to enable full consideration of feedback and to support a decision on whether any changes to the service specification might be recommended.

Respondents were asked the following consultation questions:

- Has all the relevant evidence been taken into account?

- Does the impact assessment fairly reflect the likely activity, budget and service impact? If not, what is accurate?
- Does the policy proposition accurately describe the current patient pathway that patients experience? If not, what is different?
- Please provide any comments that you may have about the potential impact on equality and health inequalities which might arise as a result of the proposed changes that have been described?
- Are there any changes or additions you think need to be made to this document, and why?

4. Results of consultation

- Four (4) responses were received during the period of public consultation. One (1) was on behalf of organisations and three (3) were submitted as individuals.
- Two responses received were 'level 4' and out of scope of the service specification and associated commissioning policy – one related to the commissioning of multi-function hand prosthetics and one related to the exclusion of congenital abnormalities.
- Two responses received were 'level 2' and required no further change. These related to clarification regarding the provision of rehabilitation and prescribing of immune suppressant drugs.

5. How have consultation responses been considered?

Responses have been carefully considered and noted in line with the following categories:

- Level 1: Incorporated into draft document immediately to improve accuracy or clarity
- Level 2: Issue has already been considered by the CRG in its development and therefore draft document requires no further change
- Level 3: Could result in a more substantial change, requiring further consideration by the CRG in its work programme and as part of the next iteration of the document
- Level 4: Falls outside of the scope of the specification and NHS England's direct commissioning responsibility

6. Has anything been changed in the policy as a result of the consultation?

The policy working group reviewed and discussed all comments received as a result of the public consultation. The comments received were viewed to be level 4 and level 2 responses, therefore no changes have been made to the document.

7. Are there any remaining concerns outstanding following the consultation that have not been resolved in the final policy proposal?

No