

NHS Board Chief Executives

CC: Chief Operating Officers; Regional Directors of Planning SEAT; WoSPG; NoSPG

29 May 2018

Dear Colleagues

Provision of Wigs for Transgender Service Users

Scottish Government met with the Chair and Members of the National Gender Identity Clinical Network for Scotland (NGICNS) to discuss ongoing concerns in relation to the access of wigs for transgender service users.

The NGICNS has previously written to NHS Boards (24th December 2015) to recommend that referral pathways are in place to ensure that transgender service users have access to wigs services.

The network report that issues and delays remain in relation to local access arising from the interpretation of the existing guidance on the supply of wigs issued in November 2011 and therefore this letter seeks to provide additional guidance/clarification.

The provision of wigs for transgender service users is required for a relatively small cohort of patients, patients are seen and receive appropriate clinical assessment for the provision of a wig by the gender services clinical team. This assessment is made within the current clinical criteria and covered within the provision for Long Term Hair Loss – therefore no new clinical group or precedence is required. However, the existing guidance did not specifically include transgender service users and general guidance for alopecia / long term hair loss patients is for referral via dermatology.

In order to reduce unnecessary referral and clinical time within dermatology and to ensure equity of access, we request that NHS Boards facilitate referral direct from the transgender service direct to the wigs service. The referring clinician will complete the the wig referral form with all relevant information.

If you have any queries or would like further information please contact [redacted] at [redacted]. Your assistance in this matter is appreciated.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

[redacted]