

National Services Division submission of 1 March 2023

PE1723/X: Essential Tremor Treatment in Scotland

Thank-you for your recent correspondence in relation to the petition which calls on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to raise awareness of essential tremor and to support the introduction and use of a focus ultrasound scanner for treating people in Scotland who have this condition.

We are glad to hear that the previous update that we provided was helpful to the Committee. NHS Tayside continue to provide such a service at present in Dundee in conjunction with the

University of Dundee and not a nationally designate service. The provision of this service has reduced the requirement for patients from Scotland to travel to the NHS England commissioned services in London or Liverpool for assessment or treatment. In the event that a patient required to travel to one of the English providers for treatment this would be funded using the risk share funds which NSD hold and administer on behalf of the territorial Health Boards.

NSD/ NSSC Process Update

NSD require applicants to register their proposal/application and submit an outline Stage 1 application which will be reviewed by the Clinical Strategic Management Group within NSD. Such applications need to be submitted to NSD by the end of March for progression during the next financial year. Such an application requires the sponsorship of either the Board Chief Executive or their designate within the Health Board in which the proposed service is to be provided.

Following such scrutiny if the proposal is considered successful at this stage, NSD will work in conjunction with the applicants to develop a formal specification for a service over the following months. It is then the responsibility of the applicant to detail how they will meet the requirements of the specification and implement this should their application (formal business case) be prioritised and endorsed towards the end of the year by the National Specialist Services Committee.

Specific Update in Relation to This Clinical Service

Whilst NSD has been in regular correspondence with NHS Tayside over a number of years in this regard and an application has been registered, at the present time NHS Tayside have not as yet submitted a BCE sponsored fully worked up Stage 1 application for designation. Without such sponsorship NSD are unable to progress this further. NSD have contacted NHS Tayside recently once again to remind them of the requirement that their formal Stage 1

application requires to be submitted by the end of March to allow for this to be considered by SMGC in April.

If a Stage 1 application were to be received, this would enter the NSD annualised commissioning process for designation which aims to prioritise the formal business cases in late 2023 with a view to potential designation and commissioning from the beginning of financial year 2024-2025. Such scrutiny by NSSC is in the latter half of 2023.

Regarding potential barriers and challenges, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic NHS Scotland remains under significant pressures in terms of resources in terms of people and finances as well as finite capacity to meet the needs of the population. Any potential new services require to be prioritised, considering the competing demands across the system as well as Scottish Government Policy and the strategic priorities for the Board Chief Executives. Each year NSD receive several requests for designation of potential new services and NSSC will consider these applications together with a view to prioritising in order to meet the needs of the population.

We hope that this further update is of help to the Public Petition.