

PE1446/B

NHS Specialised Services Letter of 20 December 2012

**PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF PE1446
QUESTIONS ARISING FROM COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

TUESDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2012

- What is the status of guidance relating to adult congenital heart patients, and is it subject to further review and/or implementation?

The 2006 guidance has been published by the Department of Health; the questions and answers document that accompanies the guidance states that the guidance is not mandatory, but that 'it is for commissioners to decide which aspects of the guide are relevant to local circumstances, to reach agreement on relative priorities and to decide on the pace of change. The guide is a framework to help assess local services and take forward development in a direction, which has the support of patients, their families and NHS professionals working in adult congenital heart disease services.' The guidance and the questions and answers document can both be found here:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4134608

The NHS National Specialised Commissioning Team is currently undertaking a review of ACHD services in England. A clinical Advisory Group has proposed a model of care and draft designation standards, which were subject to public engagement in summer 2012. A series of workshops were held in England, and a number of responses to engagement were received via letter and email. The Clinical Advisory Group is currently revising the proposed model of care and draft clinical designation standards, taking into account the feedback received during engagement. Once the Clinical Advisory Group has agreed the model of care and designation standards, NHS Trusts in England who wish to provide services for adults with congenital heart disease in the future will be required to undertake a self assessment against their ability to meet the draft designation standards. This is likely to be followed by an expert panel visiting the centres to assess how they comply with the draft designation standards. Once designation options have been proposed, a full public consultation is planned for 2014.

- What are your views on what the petition seeks?

We consider this to be a matter for the NHS in Scotland and the devolved administration in Scotland.