

Request for potential providers to Express an Interest to establish a Hepatitis C Operational Delivery Network

Bravo reference: NHSE_Specialised_HepCODN

NHS England are inviting Expressions of Interests from suitably experienced, competent and skilled providers wishing to demonstrate compliance with the requirements as set out in this notice for Hepatitis C Operational Delivery Networks.

Outline of the Service Requirement

Hepatitis C virus (HCV) is a virus transmitted in blood. It is usually asymptomatic at the time of infection and in about 75% of cases chronic infection develops. Chronic infection leads to chronic hepatitis, fibrotic liver disease, and eventually in some to cirrhosis, end stage liver disease, and hepatocellular carcinoma over 20 to 30 years. There are estimated to be 160,000 people chronically infected with HCV in England. However many of these, possibly as many as 50%, are unaware of their infection because it causes no symptoms until liver disease is at an advanced stage. Of those that have been diagnosed many are not receiving specialist management or treatment. Drug treatments will include interferons, ribavirin, and NS3 protease inhibitors, NS5A and NS5B nucleoside and non-nucleoside direct acting antiviral drugs as approved in NICE Technology Appraisals (TA) or through NHS England policies.

NHS England is seeking Expressions of Interests from providers that can implement Operational Delivery Networks for hepatitis C that meet the specific terms set out in the NHS England Service Specification, which includes:

- Establishment of formal Operational Delivery Networks (ODN)
- Coordination of drug therapies through an expert Network Virtual Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT)
- Commitment to collect the national dataset
- Positive engagement with patients and patient groups

Instructions in applying for this Expression of Interest:

In making an EoI, potential providers of this service must have the ability to:

- Meet the contract terms set out in the NHS Standard contract:
<http://www.england.nhs.uk/nhs-standard-contract/15-16/>
- Act as a the Lead Centre and be able to establish appropriate partnership arrangements to support the required level of patient access
- Deliver an expert clinical service through a Network, MDT, demonstrating expertise in the management of patients with hepatitis C

- Promote access to treatment services locally through partnership and outreach models
- Develop an Improvement Plan for the ODN
- Contribute to and put in place national clinical guidelines for treatment
- Contribute to a research programme with robust methods to evaluate treatment and outcomes.

This is not an exhaustive list but gives an indication of the scope of what will be required and only organisations who can demonstrate that they can meet these compliance requirements should consider expressing an interest.

If your organisation and proposed partners expect to meet these requirements then you should register your interest by accessing the GEM Bravo Solutions e-procurement portal and by downloading the 'NHS England – Hep C Operational Delivery Network Expression of Interest Proforma' at the following address:

<https://gemcsu.bravosolution.co.uk>

Providers will be required to complete the Proforma and sign to confirm they meet or plan to meet the requirements as set out in this document. The completed document will need to be attached via the GEM Bravo e-procurement portal messaging system.

Any question or other queries to be submitted via the GEM Bravo Solutions e-procurement portal at the following address: <https://gemcsu.bravosolution.co.uk>

Providers need to register and complete the registration sheet by 5pm 7th May 2015.

Providers should be aware of the intention to hold a telephone briefing session with NHS England at 08.30 am on Wednesday 6th May 2015.

Dial-in details are:

Tel. 0800 917 1950, Chair and Participant code 357 344 75 then #.

Further details will be made available to providers that Express an Interest.