

## RCS Invited Review of the OFMS service

Author: Andrew Furlong, Medical Director

### Executive Summary

#### Context

In July 2016, Health Education East Midlands (HEEM) undertook a Quality visit of the Oral & Maxillo-facial Surgery (OFMS) service. This visit was triggered because HEEM had become aware of potential issues with the delivery of postgraduate education and training within the OFMS department at the Leicester Royal Infirmary (LRI) affecting both Dental Core Trainees (DCTs) and Higher Specialty Trainees (HSTs). The outcome of the Quality visit was that HEEM took the decision to withdraw the Dental Core Trainees. However, their report also raised concerns that potentially affected clinical outcomes and so we took the decision to commission an external review of the OFMS service by the Royal College of Surgeons (RCS).

The RCS review team visited the Trust on 23 and 24 November 2016 and have provided verbal feedback on their preliminary findings.

Whilst the review team were impressed by the commitment and professionalism of the allied professionals who provided specialist care to LRI's head and neck cancer patient, their feedback caused us sufficient concern that we have made the decision to immediately suspend all resective cancer surgery of the oral cavity and oropharynx pending a further in-depth clinical records review by the RCS.

With regard to the rest of the OFMS service, the review team had no concerns and felt it was appropriate and safe to continue.

The RCS review team will be returning to Leicester to undertake an in-depth clinical records review and it is hoped that this will be done before Christmas although we are working with the RCS to confirm the date. The in-depth clinical records review will consider the patient journey from specialist referral to the final surgical outcome to validate concerns about delays in treatment and the quality and safety of treatment and will incorporate its additional findings within its full report that will be finalised once this work has been completed.

Clearly we will have to address all of the concerns and implement any RCS recommendations before we can confidently begin to undertake this type of surgery in the OFMS service again. A detailed action plan will be developed once we have received the full RCS report but we will start work on developing an action plan to address the preliminary findings – these will be taken through the Executive Quality Board and Trust Board Quality Assurance Committee.

All staff in the service have been briefed and we have contacted patients affected by the immediate suspension and are working with NHS England - Specialised Commissioning and neighbouring Trusts to offer them surgery in other units until such time that we are in a position to

offer this type of surgery again in Leicester. Initial work has shown that approximately 40 patients undergo this type of surgery a year and 11 patients are immediately affected.

We have briefed our local Commissioners, NHS Improvement and the CQC who support the actions we are taking.

### **Input Sought**

The Board is asked to note the current position pending the more in-depth case note review by the RCS of the OFMS service and support the recommendation that a detailed action plan be developed with oversight of progress by the Quality Assurance Committee.

## For Reference

1. The following **objectives** were considered when preparing this report:

Safe, high quality, patient centred healthcare	[Yes]
Effective, integrated emergency care	[Not applicable]
Consistently meeting national access standards	[Not applicable]
Integrated care in partnership with others	[Not applicable]
Enhanced delivery in research, innovation & ed'	[Not applicable]
A caring, professional, engaged workforce	[Yes]
Clinically sustainable services with excellent facilities	[Not applicable]
Financially sustainable NHS organisation	[Not applicable]
Enabled by excellent IM&T	[Not applicable]

2. This matter relates to the following **governance** initiatives:

Organisational Risk Register	[No]
Board Assurance Framework	[No]

3. Related **Patient and Public Involvement** actions taken, or to be taken: [Affected patients have been informed]

4. Results of any **Equality Impact Assessment**, relating to this matter: [N/A]

5. Scheduled date for the **next paper** on this topic: [TBC]

6. Executive Summaries should not exceed **1 page**. [My paper does comply]

7. Papers should not exceed **7 pages**. [N/A]