

To GP Surgery

1 May 2018

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Colleague

NHS e-Referral Service Paper Switch-Off Programme

As you will be aware, there is a national requirement that from 1st October 2018 all GP referrals to consultant led first outpatient appointments must be made via the NHS e-Referral System (e-RS). If a referral is received **without a UBRN number** attached then the Trust will not be paid. As a consequence, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (OUHFT) in line with all acute providers throughout England will be going paperless and only accepting e-RS referrals.

The Paper Switch Off (PSO) date for OUHFT will occur in advance of the deadline to allow the reporting, commissioning and referral management systems to stabilise before the cut-off date of 1st October 2018. OUHFT, in collaboration with Oxfordshire CCG, have been working to deliver phased paper switch-off programmes across all four sites of the Trust.

The Trust is in the process of updating the Directory of Services in preparation for the PSO.

With the exception of consultant led services NOT requiring e-RS which are listed in Appendix 1 – the following will apply:

From 1 July 2018 (soft launch date):

- Practices to make every effort that all referrals are made through e-RS.
- OUHFT will respond to referrals received outside e-RS with a reminder advising of the upcoming PSO date of 1 August 2018.

From 1 August 2018 (hard launch date):

- Practices must refer to OUHFT using e-RS for all relevant specialties.
- OUHFT will **return referrals to the GP with a request for the patient to be re-referred using e-RS.**

Practices need to ensure that they have systems in place to identify returned referrals and to ensure that these are re-referred to the Trust **via e-RS**. Returned referrals requiring entry on e-RS by the practice will only be proactively followed-up if they are 2WW referrals to OUHFT.

Yours sincerely



Sara Randall

Deputy Director of Clinical Services and e-RS Lead

Appendix 1: Consultant led services which do not require referring via e-RS at OUHFT from 1 July 2018

The following services have been exempted for logistical reasons in discussion with the CCG, because it is not yet logistically viable for them to receive digital referrals:

- Emergency Clinics where patients need to be seen within 24-48 hours.
- All non-consultant led services i.e. nurse led clinics
- Fracture Clinics
- Obstetrics
- Patients with no NHS number
- Patients with an NHS number who do not wish their details added to the spine
- Referrals from dentists to Maxillo-facial service*
- Referrals from optometrists to ophthalmology*
- Referrals from prisons*

*Whilst these areas await being linked to the NHS e-Referral system.

Appendix 2: Contact details for PSO Leads

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