

**Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Sexual Health Out Of Area Cross Charging Policy
February 2016**

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This document details the council's policy to manage non contracted sexual health out of area activity and provide clarity on the conditions and payment terms for cross charging.

2 Background

- 2.1 Since 1 April 2013, Local Authorities were mandated to ensure that comprehensive, open access, confidential sexual health services are available to all people who are present in their area (whether resident in that area or not). The requirement for Genito-Urinary Medicine (GUM) and Contraception and Sexual Health (CaSH) services to be provided on an open access basis is stipulated in the *Local Authorities (Public Health Functions and Entry to Premises by Local Healthwatch Representatives) Regulations 2013* ("the Regulations").
- 2.2 Re-charging by the provider of costs back to the area where the individual is resident is recommended for out-of-area use of services. These arrangements support open access integrated sexual health services and patient choice.
- 2.3 Department of Health issued guidance on cross charging in August 2013 outlining principles for Local Authorities regarding payments for residents accessing sexual health services outside the area.
- 2.4 The cross charging guidance suggests that it is for local determination how these arrangements work and solutions that meet the needs of local areas and local populations should be in place. The guidance was developed to encourage a consistent, equitable, fair and transparent approach to cross-charging and billing for out of area service users from both a commissioning and provider perspective.
- 2.5 Public Health Grant allocations are largely based on resident populations. This means that they do not include an amount for paying for out-of-area users of an authority's open access sexual health services. However, they will include an amount which can be paid to providers in other areas in respect of any residents who choose to use open access services in another authority's area.
- 2.6 Due to the mandated open access nature of sexual health services, Local Authority residents can attend clinics anywhere in the country and each Council may be billed for the services provided. However this creates challenges in budgeting for this activity.

- 2.7 Regionally there are concerns that some cross charging activity relates to university students who are being billed incorrectly, and should be the responsibility of the host local authority.

3 Cross Charging Arrangements

- 3.1 Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council adopts the Yorkshire and Humber agreement in managing sexual health out of area cross charging which was ratified by the Regional Directors of Public Health Network in June 2015.
- 3.2 Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council will maintain confidential open access services and ensure that local residents can attend a sexual health service of their choice without geographical boundaries
- 3.3 Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council will reimburse invoices for Genito-Urinary Medicine treatments which are within the cost envelope of the published Department of Health non-mandatory GUM tariff.
- 3.4 Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council will not cover contraception activity. There was no cross charging allowance for contraception activity prior to the transfer of commissioning responsibilities to the local authority on 1 April 2013, in addition there is no recognised national tariff for contraception. Therefore the regional assessment is that this activity should not be cross charged.
- 3.5 Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council will not reimburse costs relating to market forces factor (MFF), in line with the regional approach to cross charging.
- 3.6 All invoices must include the following information:
- Name of Provider
 - Date
 - Bank Details
 - Invoice Period
 - Invoice total
- 3.7 Supporting Data for each activity claimed must include the following before invoices can be reimbursed:
- LA Code
 - LA Name
 - GUM Number / Identifier
 - Attendance Type – New / Follow Up / Single / Multi Professional
 - Activity / Treatment Code
 - Partial Postcode / LSOA
 - Appointment Date
 - Tariff

- 3.8 If the information required is not included then Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council will not reimburse this activity

4 Exclusions to this policy

- 4.1 If there is a two-way patient flow between Rotherham and another area of a similar level, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council will explore reciprocal arrangements whereby activity is not invoiced as the administrative burden outweighs the marginal differences in patient flow between the two areas. Any such agreements would be included in an amended version of the Cross Charging Policy.
- 4.2 There are a small percentage of patients who may wish to remain anonymous and decline to provide identifiable information. In these cases these costs will fall to the Rotherham commissioned service.
- 4.3 Attendance by people living outside England including overseas visitors. In these cases these costs will fall to the Rotherham commissioned service.