

NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group

**LAPAROSCOPIC CHOLECYSTECTOMY FOR ASYMPTOMATIC GALL STONES  
Criteria Based Access Protocol**



**Supporting people in Dorset to lead healthier lives**

## **NHS DORSET CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP**

### **LAPAROSCOPIC CHOLECYSTECTOMY FOR ASYMPTOMATIC GALL STONES CRITERIA BASED ACCESS PROTOCOL**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE**

- 1.1 Gallstone disease occurs when hard fatty or mineral deposits (gallstones) form in the gallbladder. Approximately 15% of the adult population are thought to have gallstone disease, and most of these people experience no symptoms. For a small proportion of people with gallstone disease, the stones irritate the gallbladder or block part of the biliary system, and this can cause symptoms such as pain, infection and inflammation.
- 1.2 This protocol is applied in accordance with the Policy for Individual Patient Treatments.

#### **2. DEFINITIONS**

- 2.1 Any definitions related to this Criteria Based Access Protocol are included as a Glossary at Appendix B.

#### **3. ACCESS CRITERIA**

- 3.1 Prior approval is not required where the gall stones are symptomatic:
- Patients with diabetes mellitus/transplant recipient/patients/patients with cirrhosis who have been managed conservatively and subsequently develop symptoms;
  - Where there is biliary colic;
  - Where there is clear evidence of patients being at risk of gall bladder complications;
  - Confirmed episode of gall stone induced pancreatitis;
  - Confirmed episode of cholecystitis;
  - Episode of obstructive jaundice caused by biliary calculi.
- 3.2 Prior approval is not required in respect of asymptomatic gall stones where there is clear evidence of patients being at risk of gallbladder carcinoma.

#### **4. EXCLUSIONS**

- 4.1 There are no exclusions.

#### **5. CASES FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION**

- 5.1 Should a patient not meet the criteria detailed within this protocol, the Policy for Individual Patient Treatments (which is available on the NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group website or upon request), recognises that there will be

occasions when patients who are not considered for funding may have good clinical reasons for being treated as exceptions. In such cases the requesting clinician must provide further information to support the case for being considered as an exception.

- 5.2 The fact that treatment is likely to be effective for a patient is not, in itself a basis for exceptional circumstances. In order for funding to be agreed there must be some unusual or unique clinical factor in respect of the patient that suggests that they are:
- significantly different to the general population of patients with the particular condition; and
  - they are likely to gain significantly more benefits from the intervention than might be expected for the average patient with the condition
- 5.3 In these circumstances, please refer to the Individual Patient Treatment Team at the address below:

First Floor West  
Vespasian House  
Barrack Road  
Dorchester  
DT1 1TG  
Telephone no: 01305 368936  
Email: [individual.requests@dorsetccg.nhs.uk](mailto:individual.requests@dorsetccg.nhs.uk)

## **6. CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 Prior to approval from Dorset CCG's Clinical Commissioning Committee this Protocol was reviewed within the local NHS including input from commissioners, clinicians and other relevant stakeholders.
- 6.2 An Equality Impact Assessment for this Criteria Based Access Protocol is available on request.

## **7. RECOMMENDATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS**

- 7.1 This access protocol has been approved on behalf of the Clinical Commissioning Committee in line with processes agreed by the CCG's Governing Body.

## **8. COMMUNICATION/DISSEMINATION**

- 8.1 Following approval of Criteria Based Access Protocols at Clinical Commissioning Committee each Protocol will be uploaded to the CCG's Intranet, Internet and added to the next GP Bulletin.

## **9. IMPLEMENTATION**

- 9.1 There has been significant discussion with stakeholders in respect of the introduction and implementation of this new access protocol. It is therefore considered that there is no requirement for a formal implantation plan.

## **10. DOCUMENT REVIEW FREQUENCY AND VERSION CONTROL**

- 10.1 This Criteria Based Access Protocol requires a review every three years, or in the event of any changes to national guidance or when new guidance is issued.

**GLOSSARY**

N/A

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

N/A

| A DOCUMENT DETAILS          |                                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Procedural Document Number  | 160                            |
| Author (Name and Job Title) | Jenny Jones, Programme Officer |
| Recommending group          | Planned and Specialist         |
| Date of recommendation      | December 2016                  |
| Date of approval by CCC     | July 2017                      |
| Version                     | 1.0                            |
| Review frequency            | 3 Years                        |
| Review date                 | July 2020                      |

| B CONSULTATION PROCESS |             |  |  |
|------------------------|-------------|--|--|
| Version No             | Review Date | Author and Job Title                   | Level of Consultation  |
| 1.0                    | April 2017  | Michael Cross, Senior Commissioner IPT | Circulated for comment through the Medical Directors of the three Dorset acute NHS Foundation Trusts.<br>Reviewed previously by IPT Panel including GP, Hospital Consultant, Public Health, and Patient and Public representation. |

| C VERSION CONTROL      |            |             |                  |               |                    |  |
|------------------------|------------|-------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------|--|
| Date of recommendation | Version No | Review date | Nature of change | Approval date | Approval Committee |  |
| Dec 2016               | 1.0        | July 2020   | N/A              | July 2017     | CCC                |  |

| D ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS  |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy for individual patient treatment, NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group</li> <li>Making sense of Local Access Based Protocols, NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group</li> </ul> |  |

| E SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS/EVIDENCE BASED REFERENCES |                          |      |
|--|--------------------------|------|
| Evidence   | Hyperlink (if available) | Date |
|  |                          |      |

| F DISTRIBUTION LIST   |                      |                         |                       |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Internal CCG Intranet | CCG Internet Website | Communications Bulletin | External stakeholders |
| ✓                     | ✓                    | ✓                       | ✓                     |