

**Bristol, North Somerset
and South Gloucestershire
Clinical Commissioning Groups**

NHS Proposals

July 2017



**Protecting high
quality healthcare
services for the
long term**

Improving care and treatment

Our vision is to improve the health of the whole population, reduce health inequalities and ensure NHS services are fit for the long term. The 2017-18 NHS budget for Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire is £1.15 billion to serve a population of close to one million.

In recent years, health spending in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire has exceeded the £1.15 billion budget and there is a growing deficit. In order to protect NHS services for the future, we have to live within our means and make the best use of taxpayers' money for Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire.

We have identified a number of opportunities to improve services and increase efficiency which are outlined in the following table.

Specific involvement processes will be held for each proposal, seeking the views of patients, the public, clinicians and other professionals. You can also give your feedback via the Get Involved pages of the [Bristol](#), [North Somerset](#) and [South Gloucestershire](#) CCG websites.

This is an ongoing process and proposals and plans will develop as we continue this vital transformation. We will continue to publish our proposals and review feedback and comments from patients and the public.

This work forms part of Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire's Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) and reflects the NHS's Five Year Forward View to deliver sustainable care for future generations.

Have your say

We welcome your views on the proposals outlined on the following pages.

Please follow the links in the document to submit your feedback online, email: contactus.bnssg@nhs.net or write to:

Bristol Clinical Commissioning Group
South Plaza, Marlborough Street,
Bristol,
BS1 3NX
Telephone: 0117 976 6600

North Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group
Post Point 11, Clevedon,
North Somerset, BS21 6FW
Telephone: 01275 546702

South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group
Corum 2, Corum Office Park, Crown Way,
Warmley, South Gloucestershire BS30 8FJ
Telephone: 0117 947 4400

If you need this document in another format, please contact us as above.

Healthcare services proposals

Proposal	Summary	Date from	Date to
Self-care and over the counter medicines	Ask patients, GPs and pharmacists to consider whether a prescription for an over the counter medicine is required. Many common medicines are cheaper for patients to buy over the counter rather than paying the current £8.60 prescription charge. This does not mean an end to prescribing these medicines. Those who need over the counter medicines prescribed will have them prescribed.	17 July	28 August
Prior approval for cosmetic treatments	Introduce a policy to require prior approval (authorisation) from the CCG if treatments are not for health improvements. Examples include cosmetic surgery procedures such as breast reduction operations and cosmetic ear pinning. Patients will still be able to apply via their GPs if they feel that their physical health or function is impaired.	18 July	15 August
Sleep apnoea commissioning policy	Introduce prior approval for sleep apnoea devices. Patients with moderate or severe sleep apnoea will, in the first instance, be supported to try all possible clinically effective management options prior to being issued with a Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) device. Patients with mild conditions may receive a device under exceptional circumstances. Patients will be given one device only as they are portable.	18 July	15 August
Decommissioning homeopathy	Commissioners are proposing to end the contract for homeopathy treatments. There is no clinical evidence of effectiveness for homeopathy. In exceptional cases, patients will be able to apply through their GPs to the local CCG.	18 July	15 August

Proposal	Summary	Date from	Date to
Fertility treatment eligibility	<p>Introduce a policy to make fertility treatments available to women between the ages of 30 and 35 (from 30th birthday to 35th birthday). Currently, fertility treatments are available to women up to the age of 40, provided they meet the eligibility criteria. Clinical evidence shows that treatment between the ages of 30-35 offers the highest possible chances of success. Commissioners will consider making treatments available in exceptional circumstances, outside this age range.</p> <p>Please note: This is separate to the current recommissioning of assisted conception services.</p>	18 July	15 September
Chronic liver disease pathway	<p>Ensure there is a consistent approach to testing for and treating chronic liver disease across Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire.</p>	18 July	15 August
Breast reconstruction after cancer	<p>Ensure compliance with the CCGs' policy for breast reconstruction after breast cancer surgery. We are fully committed to funding reconstructive surgery for women affected by breast cancer. This includes supporting up to three operations, in the five years after treatment, to the breast affected by cancer. We propose applying the existing policy of not funding cosmetic surgery to the unaffected breast.</p>	17 July	15 September