

NHS Proposals

You
said...

We did:

November 2017

Protecting high
quality healthcare
services for the
long term

Chronic Liver Disease

What changes were we proposing?

The CCGs proposed to improve the care for people suffering from chronic liver disease by standardising and simplifying the way they are treated and helping them to be treated closer to home. This will be done through two new pathways – one for chronic liver disease and one for non-alcoholic fatty liver disease.

Why did we propose the changes?

The CCG is proposing these changes as part of a wider review to improve how services are delivered to the local community while at the same time making savings to secure the long term future of healthcare in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire.

Who was consulted and involved?

Senior clinical and management staff met with people who use existing liver disease services and volunteers who work at Addaction, a specialist charity based in Weston-super-Mare, to discuss the two pathways. The wider public was also consulted via the three local CCG websites.

How were they consulted?

It was agreed to hold two focus groups. One was held for patients and one for service volunteers. An online questionnaire was also published on the CCG website for members of the public. The consultation ran for four weeks from July.

What did you say and how we responded?

There was clear support for the proposal to create the two pathways for liver disease and these were introduced in late December 2017.

A number of issues were raised during the consultation, which have been examined by the CCG. Our response is shown overleaf.

(see overleaf for details)

You said	Our response
80% of respondents from the online survey supported the proposal for new pathways.	The new pathways were introduced in December 2017.
Liver disease management needs GP expertise and a standardised approach across the area.	Standardised information about the new pathways has been provided to GPs across the three CCG areas, Addaction, the Bristol Drugs Project and Developing Health and Independence (DHI) South Gloucestershire. New blood tests have also been created to enable more accurate assessment of liver disease.
GP and community services workload needs to be monitored.	
Fibroscanning needs to be locally based to help service users access the care they need in a timely way without needing to be referred to a hospital.	An initial fibroscanning pilot scheme is planned for one site in Bristol, with a second planned in the Weston-super-Mare area.
Patients prefer local appointments that are convenient to where they live which could help improve the attendance rate	
Awareness needs to be raised about the dangers of chronic liver disease.	A patient friendly version of the pathways is being written and will be tested among patients and volunteers before publication. Information leaflets will be made available to clinical staff to share with patients.
Standard information needs to be in plain English	
What about the homeless who may well suffer from chronic liver disease? What would happen to them?	We have discussed the new pathways with the Homeless Discharge Team in UHB, Homeless GP Service, Bristol Drugs Project, DHI and Addaction to ensure they, and their clients, are aware of the pathways.
Early support for people with drink and drug addiction is needed	The new pathways will enable patients to have the right investigations, referral to liver specialists and treatment in a timely and standardised manner

You said:

The public engagement processes have largely supported the implementation of the Chronic Liver Disease and Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease pathways and have offered us opportunities for improvement.

We did:

The new pathways were approved by the Governing Body of the three local CCGs in December 2017. The new policies were introduced with support for GPs, patients and volunteers organisations at that time.

Further information and a more detailed report can be found at:
www.northsomersetccg.nhs.uk/liver-disease-pathway-2017
www.southgloucestershireccg.nhs.uk/liver-disease-pathway-2017
www.bristolccg.nhs.uk/liver-disease-pathway-2017