

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Request Reference FoI/23/033
Welsh Gender Service

Could you please clarify the following?

- **Could you please tell me where the information on comorbidities and self-harm will be held? Will this be held by the GPs that the patients are registered with?**

General health information for patients, including current and past health conditions, will be held at GP level.

- **Please can you provide me with information on the processes that the Welsh Gender Service goes through when it comes to considering comorbidities and self-harm when it refers patients for surgery? Are these considered at all when a patient is referred? If so, why is this information not recorded?**

GPs will share relevant information at the point of referral. The screening clinician may request further information from the GP at this point. All relevant current and past health issues are discussed with the patient during their appointment pathway with the Welsh Gender Service and detailed, as appropriate, in the patient letter which is sent to the GP and to any other clinicians who will be involved in the patient pathway going forward. A record of the patient letter is held on our files.

Also, could you provide me with information on the following:

- **What are the processes/exercises that a patient has to go through in order to be eligible for referral for surgery? E.g. do they have to live in their desired gender for a certain amount of time, do they have to attend a certain number of sessions with therapists, doctors, etc?**

Referrals for surgery are made in accordance with the Welsh Gender Service Specification and in line with guidance governing surgical procedures commissioned by NHS England for the treatment of gender dysphoria.

Criteria for mastectomy and chest reconstruction (requires one letter of referral from a Lead Professional):

- Persistent, well-documented gender dysphoria
- Capacity to make a fully informed decision and to consent for treatment
- Aged 17 years or older
- If significant medical or mental health concerns are present, they must be reasonably well controlled
- Hormone therapy is not a pre-requisite therefore it is not a requirement for access to masculinising chest surgery to undertake a change in social role

Criteria for genital surgery (requires two letters of referral: one from a Lead Professional, the other from a similarly-qualified and experienced professional not directly involved in the individual's care and able to form an independent opinion; at least one letter of referral must be from a Registered Medical Practitioner with expertise in gender dysphoria)

- Persistent, well documented gender dysphoria
- Capacity to make a fully informed decision and to consent for treatment
- Age 17 years or older
- If significant medical or mental health concerns are present, they must be well controlled
- 12 continuous months of hormone therapy as appropriate to the patient's gender goals (unless the patient has a medical contraindication or is otherwise unable or unwilling to take hormones)
- 12 continuous months of living in a gender role that is congruent with their gender identity; this must not entail a requirement for the individual to conform to externally imposed or arbitrary preconceptions about gender identity and presentation; this requirement is not about qualifying for surgery, but rather preparing and supporting the individual to cope with the profound personal and social consequences of surgery; where individuals can demonstrate that they have been living in their gender role before the referral to the Provider, this must be taken into account.