

# Agenda Item 8

		<b>THE HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR LINCOLNSHIRE</b>	
Boston Borough Council	East Lindsey District Council	City of Lincoln Council	Lincolnshire County Council
North Kesteven District Council	South Holland District Council	South Kesteven District Council	West Lindsey District Council

**Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham  
Executive Director - Resources**

Report to	<b>Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire</b>
Date:	<b>13 October 2021</b>
Subject:	<b>Eligibility Criteria for Non-Emergency Patient Transport - Consultation</b>

## **Summary:**

The NHS is consulting on the eligibility criteria for non-emergency patient transport, with a view to standardising access to this service across England. The Committee is invited to agree a response to the consultation, for submission to NHS England by the consultation closing date of 25 October 2021. This response will be circulated prior to the meeting.

## **Actions Requested:**

To approve the Committee's response to the NHS consultation on the eligibility criteria for non-emergency patient transport.

### **1. Background**

#### Review of Non-Emergency Patient Transport Services

As reported to the Committee on 15 September 2021, a national review of non-emergency patient transport was published in August 2021. This review highlighted several challenges for the commissioners and providers of patient transport, which included a commitment to update and clarify the national criteria for eligibility, which have been in place since 2007.

The 2007 Eligibility Criteria for Patient Transport Services are set out below and were described by the national review as 'high level':

*"Eligible patients should reach healthcare (treatment, outpatient appointment or diagnostic services i.e. procedures that were traditionally provided in hospital, but are now available in a hospital or community setting) in secondary and primary care settings in a reasonable time and in reasonable comfort, without detriment to their medical condition.*

*"Similarly, patients should be able to travel home in reasonable comfort without detriment to their medical condition. The distance to be travelled and frequency of travel should also be taken into account, as the medical need for PTS may be affected by these factors. Similarly, what is a 'reasonable' journey time will need to be defined locally, as circumstances may vary.*

*"Eligible patients are those*

- (1) Where the medical condition of the patient is such that they require the skills or support of Patient Transport Service staff on/after the journey and/or where it would be detrimental to the patient's condition or recovery if they were to travel by other means.*
- (2) Where the patient's medical condition impacts on their mobility to such an extent that they would be unable to access healthcare and/or it would be detrimental to the patient's condition or recovery to travel by other means.*
- (3) Recognised as a parent or guardian where children are being conveyed.*

*"Patient transport services could also be provided to a patient's escort or carer where their particular skills and/or support are needed e.g. this might be appropriate for those accompanying a person with a physical or mental incapacity, vulnerable adults or to act as a translator. Discretionary provision such as this would need to be agreed in advance, when transport is booked.*

*"A patient's eligibility for patient transport services should be determined either by a healthcare professional or by non-clinically qualified staff who are both: clinically supervised and/or working within locally agreed protocols or guidelines, and employed by the NHS or working under contract for the NHS."*

Since 2007, local areas have developed more detailed criteria, as they sought to translate the national criteria for their local populations. This, as the national review noted, in turn has led to variations in eligibility from place to place. In response to the local variations and other issues, a national consultation is underway on more detailed criteria, which would be applied in each area in England.

## 2. Response to the Consultation Questions

Set out in Appendix A to this report are the proposed criteria, together with a proposed draft response for the Committee to consider. The full consultation document on is available at the following link:

<https://www.engage.england.nhs.uk/consultation/eligibility-for-non-emergency-patient-transport/>

## 3. Impact of New Criteria on Lincolnshire Non-Emergency Patient Transport

As previously reported, Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is currently undertaking a procurement exercise for non-emergency patient transport, as the contract with the existing provider expires on 30 June 2022. As stated in the consultation document it is the intention that new contracts from April 2022 will reflect the new criteria, so this means they will be applied by the provider of the new contract from 1 July 2022. The CCG has advised that the specifications issued to the prospective providers had referred to the imminent publication of the national review. NHS England had also provided the CCG with prior knowledge of the main findings of the review prior to publication, and these were covered in the market engagement event with potential bidders.

## 4. Consultation and Conclusion

The Committee is being invited to approve a response to the national consultation on the proposed eligibility criteria for non-emergency patient transport.

## 5. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A <b>(TO FOLLOW)</b>	Draft Response of the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire to <i>Eligibility Criteria for Non-Emergency Patient Transport: A Consultation</i>

## 6. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

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