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Planning

NHS England South East Specialised Commissioning Provision of NHS Complex Termination Of Pregnancy Services for patients with medical complexity and/or significant co-morbidities - Regional Network Lead Provider

NHS England South East Specialised Commissioning

F01: Prior information notice

Prior information only

Notice identifier: 2025/S 000-001533

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-04d3cc

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Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

NHS England South East Specialised Commissioning

Premier House, 60 Caversham Road

Reading

RG1 7EB

Email

Scwcsu.procurement@nhs.net

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKJ - South East (England)

Justification for not providing organisation identifier

Not on any register

Internet address(es)

Main address

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/>

Buyer's address

<https://health-family.force.com/s/Welcome>

I.3) Communication

The procurement documents are available for unrestricted and full direct access, free of charge, at

<https://health-family.force.com/s/Welcome>

Additional information can be obtained from the above-mentioned address

I.4) Type of the contracting authority

Body governed by public law

I.5) Main activity

Health

Section II: Object

II.1) Scope of the procurement

II.1.1) Title

NHS England South East Specialised Commissioning Provision of NHS Complex Termination Of Pregnancy Services for patients with medical complexity and/or significant

co-morbidities - Regional Network Lead Provider

Reference number

C329329/WA12211

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85121210 - Gyneacologic or obstetric services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

This notice is placed to set out NHS England South East's (the Commissioner's) intention to follow the Most Suitable Provider Process.

NHS England South East is seeking a suitable provider who has the capability and capacity to deliver Complex Termination Of Pregnancy Services for patients with medical complexity and/or significant co-morbidities, in line with the specified requirements, in the capacity of the Regional Network Lead Provider.

The aims of the service are to: -

- Ensure that people needing NHS care for safe termination are always able to access specialised termination services up to 23 weeks 6 days of gestation (regardless of the legal ground)
- Provide rapid access to local, safe, effective and satisfactory terminations for individuals excluded from treatment in routine termination services due to the complications posed to safe termination as a result of the patient's medical needs or significant co-morbidities
- Ensure that people with significant co-morbidities have access to NHS Centres at early gestation and in line with national gestation group (weeks) profiles where safe care requires NHS input
- Maximise safety by providing local access to high quality expertise in specialised termination services up to 23 weeks 6 days of gestation with access to multidisciplinary teams and acute peri-abortion care when needed
- Ensure that the quality of the care provided is nationally monitored and subject to a process of continued improvement (through a national dashboard)

- Participate in national data collection to improve understanding of service needs across the country to allow optimisation of outcomes and resources
- improve understanding of optimal methods of treatment through analysis and publication of data
- standardise the assessment criteria across all ISP specialist placement teams
- Increase access to training opportunities in surgical terminations after 14 weeks of gestation, leading to a more robust workforce in termination services across sectors as well as an expansion of services at a greater range of gestational ages within NHS hospitals

Funding for the CTOP Service (values based on 24/25 price base)

Funding Breakdown - £408,000

The total annual funding for the CTOP service is allocated as follows:

- Recurrent training support: £122,000 - Hub
- Non-Recurrent Network Funding: £62,000, per year for 3 years - Hub
- Activity-related costs: £224,000 - Hub and Spokes

The Contract will be for a term of 5 years with an optional extension period of 2 years. Services are planned to commence from 1st April 2025.

Services will be contracted using the latest version of the NHS Standard Contract. Under rule 5a of the NHS Payment Scheme 2023-25 (amended) March 2024, this contract is exempt from Aligned Payment Incentives (API).

This exercise is being carried out by NHS South, Central and West Commissioning Support Unit (SCW) on behalf of the Commissioner.

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 85111100 - Surgical hospital services

- 85111200 - Medical hospital services
- 85111300 - Gynaecological hospital services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKJ - South East (England)

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

This notice is placed to set out NHS England South East's (the Commissioner's) intention to follow the Most Suitable Provider Process.

NHS England South East is seeking a suitable provider who has the capability and capacity to deliver Complex Termination Of Pregnancy Services for patients with medical complexity and/or significant co-morbidities, in line with the specified requirements, in the capacity of a Regional CTOP Lead Centre.

The aims of the service are to:-

- Ensure that people needing NHS care for safe termination are always able to access specialised termination services up to 23 weeks 6 days of gestation (regardless of the legal ground)
 - Provide rapid access to local, safe, effective and satisfactory terminations for individuals excluded from treatment in routine termination services due to the complications posed to safe termination as a result of the patient's medical needs or significant co-morbidities
 - Ensure that people with significant co-morbidities have access to NHS Centres at early gestation and in line with national gestation group (weeks) profiles where safe care requires NHS input
 - Maximise safety by providing local access to high quality expertise in specialised termination services up to 23 weeks 6 days of gestation with access to multidisciplinary teams and acute peri-abortion care when needed
 - Ensure that the quality of the care provided is nationally monitored and subject to a process of continued improvement (through a national dashboard)
 - Participate in national data collection to improve understanding of service needs across the country to allow optimisation of outcomes and resources
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of data

- standardise the assessment criteria across all ISP specialist placement teams
- Increase access to training opportunities in surgical terminations after 14 weeks of gestation, leading to a more robust workforce in termination services across sectors as well as an expansion of services at a greater range of gestational ages within NHS hospitals

The Regional Network Lead Provider (hub) will work collaboratively with the Regional Network Providers (spokes). The Regional Network Lead Provider role will:

- host the single point of access (SPOA) for all CTOP referrals
- lead the multi-disciplinary team (MDT)
- lead the training, upskilling and maintenance of skills programmes for the region (Nationally mandated in order to access specific additional training funding allocation)
- provide CTOP care for both surgical and medical treatment methods up to 23+6 weeks gestation

Funding for the CTOP Service(values based on 24/25 price base)

The CTOP service will be funded in addition to the existing TOP tariff provided to providers by Integrated Care Boards (ICBs). This additional funding, totalling £408,000, will be sourced from the SRB reserve, as directed by the National Specialised Commissioning Senior Programme of Care Manager for Women's and Children's. While this funding is recurrent, it is based on assumed activity levels and not directly tied to actual activity.

Funding Breakdown

The total annual funding for the CTOP service is allocated as follows:

- Recurrent training support: £122,000 - Hub
- Non-Recurrent Network Funding: £62,000, per year for 3 years - Hub
- Activity-related costs: £224,000 - Hub and Spokes

Training Funding Details

This recurrent funding is aimed at ensuring the sustainability and quality of the CTOP

service through:

- Workforce training and upskilling: Supporting local providers to offer surgical terminations up to 23+6 weeks gestation within the South East (SE) region.
- Ongoing development: Providing continuous training to sustain high standards of patient care.

Release of recurrent funding is contingent on NHSE SE submitting a detailed spending plan to the NHSE National team.

Network Funding Details

The non-recurrent allocation of £62,000 is designated for establishing critical service components, including the SPOA, MDTs, and M&M meetings, within the Hub provider. How the network funding is to be utilised may change after the end of year 3.

Activity Assumptions and Reconciliation

Activity assumptions for the CTOP service are based on data from existing TOP services. A block allocation of top-up funding will be provided initially. Once data collection begins through the SPOA, periodic reconciliation will occur to compare funding against actual activity levels.

Training Implementation

A structured training program will be implemented to upskill local providers, enabling them to deliver surgical termination services within the SE region. The Hub provider will outline the timeline for this training once the service is formally commissioned.

The Contracts will be for a term of 5 years with an optional extension period of 2 years. Services are planned to commence from 1st April 2025.

Services will be contracted using the latest version of the NHS Standard Contract. Under rule 5a of the NHS Payment Scheme 2023-25 (amended) March 2024, this contract is exempt from Aligned Payment Incentives (API).

This exercise is being carried out by NHS South, Central and West Commissioning Support Unit (SCW) on behalf of the Commissioner.

II.3) Estimated date of publication of contract notice

21 March 2025

Section IV. Procedure

IV.1) Description

IV.1.8) Information about the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

The Specification can be found in Atamis (see details below for access), along with a Most Suitable Provider Questionnaire.

Where deemed suitable, providers can express an interest. They must do this by submitting a response to the questionnaire (within Atamis).

Providers who believe they are suitable to deliver these services and express an interest will be assessed against the basic selection criteria and key criteria under the Provider Selection Regime (PSR).

The basic criteria includes:

- The provider's ability to pursue a particular activity
- Economic and financial standing
- Technical and professional ability

The key criteria includes:

- Quality and innovation (20%)
- Value (20%)
- Integration, collaboration and service sustainability (20%)
- Improving access, reducing health inequalities and facilitating choice (20%)
- Social value (20%)

The percentages illustrate the relative importance of these criteria associated with the delivery of these services.

Interested providers will be able to view this opportunity via the live opportunities list on the 'Health Family' e-procurement system, Atamis. Click on 'View our Live Opportunities' from the home page, available on the following link: <https://health-family.force.com/s/Welcome>.

Once you have found the opportunity (via the search function, using the title or reference number), to gain full access to the relevant information, you will need to click on 'Register interest' - this will take you to the log-in page.

If you are not already registered on the system, you will need to do so before gaining full access to the documentation.

Please return your questionnaire via the correspondence function within Atamis by midnight, 30th January 2025.

Award decisions will be recommended by the NHS England South East Specialised Commissioning Team.

The intention is to award a contract using the most suitable provider process.

This is a Provider Selection Regime (PSR) intended approach notice. The awarding of this contract is subject to the Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023. For the avoidance of doubt, the provisions of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 do not apply to this award.