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Tender

NHS England South West - Plasma Exchange Service (PLEX) in Devon & Cornwall

NHS England

F21: Social and other specific services – public contracts

Prior information notice with call for competition

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-008132

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-03b4a7

Published 21 March 2023, 11:30am

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

NHS England

Three-Six-Zero, Marlborough Street

Bristol

BS1 3NX

Contact

Alexandra Searle

Email

scwcsu.procurement@nhs.net

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UKK - South West (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

Tenders or requests to participate must be submitted to 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 West - Plasma Exchange Service (PLEX) in Devon & Cornwall

Reference number

C151832

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85100000 - Health services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

This notice is published as a Prior Information Notice as a call for competition for expressions of interest. The Commissioner may then choose to proceed directly to a procurement process with parties who have responded to the notice and there shall be no further notice published if so.

NHS England South West (NHSE SW) seeks Expressions of Interest (EOI) from providers who have the capability and capacity to deliver Plasma Exchange (PLEX) services in Devon and Cornwall.

Plasma exchange is currently delivered in Devon and Cornwall on an ad-hoc basis. There is no existing substantive plasma exchange service within the area, so the provider would be expected to develop and mobilise all aspects of the service in collaboration with commissioners and key stakeholders.

The service will complement the existing provision available in the rest of the South West region, ensuring more equitable access. This service supports the delivery of key services, particularly, but not limited to, neurology and haematology.

This process is being managed by NHS South, Central and West Commissioning Support Unit (SCW) on behalf of the Commissioner(s).

II.1.6) Information about lots

This contract is divided into lots: No

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 85100000 - Health services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKK3 - Cornwall and Isles of Scilly
- UKK4 - Devon

Main site or place of performance

Devon and Cornwall

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

NHS England South West (NHSE SW) seeks Expressions of Interest (EOI) from providers who have the capability and capacity to deliver Plasma Exchange (PLEX) services in Devon and Cornwall.

Plasma exchange is currently delivered in Devon and Cornwall on an ad-hoc basis. There is no existing substantive plasma exchange service within the area, so the provider would be expected to develop and mobilise all aspects of the service in collaboration with commissioners and key stakeholders.

The service will complement the existing provision available in the rest of the South West region, ensuring more equitable access. This service supports the delivery of key services, particularly, but not limited to, neurology and haematology.

Summary of Proposed Service

The service should use and maintain the Spectra Optia® Apherisis System (using a peripheral line) to deliver PLEX as a preferred treatment of some neurological and blood disorders, and to support patients who would otherwise access Intravenous Immunoglobulin (IVIG) supplies.

IVIG has finite supplies, with providers often having to rationalise their own allocation.

The Peninsula PLEX service is expected to facilitate both elective and non-elective access.

The commissioner's preferred model of delivery is a roving service, as it is believed that this will be the most cost-effective option for delivering a service 24 hours per day, 7 days per week across the geographic area.

This approach would need to be complemented by a fixed base for staff, to deliver inpatient activity, with road links to the hospital sites in the area. As part of a fixed base, a 3 or 4 chair site would need to be established, with administrative space, storeroom and a patient waiting area. However, other models of delivery would be considered.

Where patients require time-critical treatment, this must be delivered in line with NICE guidance.

The Peninsula Trusts are Royal Devon University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (FT), University Hospital Plymouth NHS FT, Torbay and South Devon NHS FT, and Royal Cornwall NHS FT.

The service will need to develop effective working relationships with each hospital to:

- Ensure that plasma exchange can be delivered in partnership with expert clinicians in each Trust who oversee care of the patient and prescribing of plasma exchange products and fluids
- Work with each Trust to identify the best way to deliver plasma exchange to inpatients - e.g. transporting the equipment and staffing to the patient's bedside
- Work with each Trust to identify the best way to deliver plasma exchange to outpatients - e.g. delivering treatment within a mobile unit for patients distant from the fixed site and/or via chairs at a fixed site

The service will also need to develop links with regional and national specialist centres, e.g. University Hospital Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust as lead regional centre for Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura.

Population Needs

The Peninsula Sub-Regional Immunoglobulin Advisory Panel (SRIAP) is undertaking a retrospective review to understand cases that would have utilised the PLEX service had it been available. Some patients also receive treatment outside of the Peninsula, e.g. Bristol and Southampton.

Service Development

It is anticipated that the use of Plasma Exchange will continue to increase, even as immunoglobulin supplies fluctuate.

The Spectra Optia® Apherisis System also facilitates expansion of provision to other services, for example treatment for patients with sickle cell disease, where NHS England hold the commissioning responsibility. There are also studies that suggest that PLEX may be useful in the treatment of some cancers. NHS England reserves the right to incorporate this activity into this contract in the future if it deems it appropriate to do so.

Mobilisation

As this will be a new service, the provider will need to develop implementation plans, recruit and train staff, purchase equipment and develop Trust relationships. A pre-agreed list of conditions to be treated within the service must be developed with all key stakeholders. It is anticipated that the mobilisation period will be approximately 6 months, although this will be confirmed during the process.

Contract duration and financial envelope are unknown at this stage.

II.2.14) Additional information

The services are healthcare services falling within Schedule 3 to the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 ("the Regulations") which are not subject to the full regime of the Regulations, but are instead governed by the "Light Touch Regime" contained within Chapter 3, Section 7 of the Regulations (Regulations 74 to 77).

Section IV. Procedure

IV.2) Administrative information

IV.2.2) Time limit for receipt of expressions of interest

Date

12 April 2023

Local time

12:00pm

IV.2.4) Languages in which tenders or requests to participate may be submitted

English

IV.2.5) Scheduled date for start of award procedures

1 June 2023

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.3) Additional information

This notice is published as a Prior Information Notice (PIN) as a call for competition for expressions of interest. The Commissioner may then choose to proceed directly to a procurement process with parties who have responded to the notice and there shall be no further notice published.

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, you will need to click on 'Register interest' - this will take you to the log-in page.

To register an expression of interest, you will also need to complete, attach and return the Market Engagement Questionnaire via the messaging function on Atamis. Expressions of interest must be received by Wednesday 12th April, 12:00pm.

If you are not already registered on the system, you will need to do so before gaining full access to the documentation and to be able to submit your expression of interest / market engagement questionnaire.

Expressions of Interest received and the information provided within the questionnaire response will be used to help NHSE finalise their commissioning and contracting approach for these services.

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VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

High Court

London

Country

United Kingdom