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Award

## **POLARIS TRIAL**

NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership-Procurement Services (hosted by Velindre University NHS Trust)

F15: Voluntary ex ante transparency notice

Notice identifier: 2023/S 000-013425

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-03c7e3

Published 11 May 2023, 11:19am

### **Section I: Contracting authority/entity**

#### **I.1) Name and addresses**

NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership-Procurement Services (hosted by Velindre University NHS Trust)

4-5 Charnwood Court,, Heol Billingsley, Parc Nantgarw

Cardiff

CF15 7QZ

#### **Email**

[rhodri.poacher@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:rhodri.poacher@wales.nhs.uk)

#### **Telephone**

+44 1443848585

#### **Country**

United Kingdom

**NUTS code**

UK - United Kingdom

**Internet address(es)**

Main address

<http://nwssp.nhs.wales/ourservices/procurement-services/>

Buyer's address

[https://www.sell2wales.gov.wales/search/Search\\_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA0221](https://www.sell2wales.gov.wales/search/Search_AuthProfile.aspx?ID=AA0221)

**I.4) Type of the contracting authority**

Body governed by public law

**I.5) Main activity**

Health

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**Section II: Object****II.1) Scope of the procurement****II.1.1) Title**

POLARIS TRIAL

Reference number

CAV-STA (22-23) 211

**II.1.2) Main CPV code**

- 79314000 - Feasibility study

**II.1.3) Type of contract**

Services

**II.1.4) Short description**

The POLARiS trial will investigate the clinical and cost benefit of two treatments for patients with major LARS who have previously undergone standard non-surgical treatment without improvement.

#### **II.1.6) Information about lots**

This contract is divided into lots: No

#### **II.1.7) Total value of the procurement (excluding VAT)**

Value excluding VAT: £1,833,550.84

### **II.2) Description**

#### **II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)**

- 79314000 - Feasibility study

#### **II.2.3) Place of performance**

NUTS codes

- UKL22 - Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan

Main site or place of performance

University Hospital of Wales

#### **II.2.4) Description of the procurement**

14,000 cases of rectal cancer are diagnosed in the UK per year. The treatment for advanced rectal

cancer is often radiotherapy+/-chemotherapy treatment followed by surgery. This provides good

outcomes, with the cancer returning in less than 10% of people. However, the surgery can cause significant long-lasting problems, including problems with bowel, sexual and urinary function. Low

anterior resection syndrome (LARS) is a collection of symptoms that people who have undergone a

partial or total removal of the rectum may experience, including bowel incontinence or leakage,

frequency or urgency of stools, loose stools and incomplete bowel emptying. These symptoms can

have a considerable negative impact on patient quality of life and daily functioning. As a result, there is

a need to focus efforts on survivorship.

LARS symptoms are present in 75% of the patients up to 12 months after surgery and remain in up to

50% of patients for more than 10 years with a major impact on quality of life. There is little evidence to

support treatment options for patients with LARS. Despite more acceptance of LARS amongst

clinicians, with increased subspecialisation of surgeons and poor reporting of LARS, many centres do

not have a clear management pathway and/or are unaware of the treatments available.

Transanal irrigation (TAI) is a method of managing conditions such as bowel incontinence or

constipation. It involves introducing water through the anus to flush faeces (poo) from the bowel.

Sacral Neuromodulation (SNM) involves a small battery powered unit being implanted into the lower

back. This is connected to electrodes which rest on the nerves in the lower spine.

These two treatment options may improve quality of life for patients with LARS, however supportive

evidence is currently lacking. The POLARiS trial will investigate the clinical and cost benefit of two

treatments for patients with major LARS who have previously undergone standard non-surgical

treatment without improvement. Patients who are not randomised to SNM or TAI will be offered

optimised medical management.

The study will monitor the bowel function and quality of life in patients who have undergone rectal

cancer surgery in the hospitals involved within the last 10 years of the trial commencing. Those

patients found to have poor bowel function (major LARS) will be randomised to one of the treatment

options and followed up for 2 years after randomisation.

The results of the study will be presented at conferences raising awareness of effective treatment

options to clinicians, as well as through publication in peer reviewed journals. Patient material will be

developed as part of the output of POLARiS which will offer self-management strategies and

explanation of treatment options for patients with LARS. The findings of the study will be highlighted

through social media to patient groups and relevant charities. This will inform patients and the public

that LARS is treatable and which treatment options are potentially available.

#### **II.2.11) Information about options**

Options: No

#### **II.2.13) Information about European Union Funds**

The procurement is related to a project and/or programme financed by European Union funds: No

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## **Section IV. Procedure**

### **IV.1) Description**

#### **IV.1.1) Type of procedure**

Award of a contract without prior publication of a call for competition in the cases listed below

- The procurement falls outside the scope of application of the regulations

Explanation:

This contract will be awarded to the University of Leeds, who's Clinical Trials Research Unit (CTRU\_ have been involved in trial design, application development and implementation plan for this research proposal and have experience of day-to-day management of a trail of this size previously.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

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## **Section V. Award of contract/concession**

### **Contract No**

CAV-STA (22-23) 211

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

### **V.2) Award of contract/concession**

#### **V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract**

11 May 2023

#### **V.2.2) Information about tenders**

The contract has been awarded to a group of economic operators: No

#### **V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor/concessionaire**

University of Leeds

St James's University Hospital

Leeds

LS97TF

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor/concessionaire is an SME

No

#### **V.2.4) Information on value of contract/lot/concession (excluding VAT)**

Total value of the contract/lot/concession: £1,833,550.84

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## **Section VI. Complementary information**

### **VI.3) Additional information**

This VEAT will be in place for 10 calendar days from 11th May 2023 until 22nd May 2023.

NOTE: To register your interest in this notice and obtain any additional information please visit the Sell2Wales Web Site at

[https://www.sell2wales.gov.wales/Search/Search\\_Switch.aspx?ID=131124](https://www.sell2wales.gov.wales/Search/Search_Switch.aspx?ID=131124).

NOTE: To register your interest in this notice and obtain any additional information please visit the Sell2Wales Web Site at

[https://www.sell2wales.gov.wales/Search/Search\\_Switch.aspx?ID=131474](https://www.sell2wales.gov.wales/Search/Search_Switch.aspx?ID=131474).

(WA Ref:131474)

### **VI.4) Procedures for review**

#### **VI.4.1) Review body**

High Court

Royal Courts of Justice, The Strand

London

WC2A 2LL

Telephone

+44 2079477501

Country

United Kingdom