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Contract

Gender Dysphoria Epilation Pathway

NHS England

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2022/S 000-021134

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocds-h6vhtk-03584b

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Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

NHS England

Quarry House

Leeds

LS2 7UE

Contact

Andrew Powell

Email

andrew.powell14@nhs.net

Telephone

+44 7702433551

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

UKE - Yorkshire and the Humber

Internet address(es)

Main address

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

Buyer's address

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

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

Gender Dysphoria Epilation Pathway

Reference number

C95491

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85100000 - Health services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

Management and administration of the gender dysphoria epilation pathway:

Arrange timely facial hair and surgical site epilation at suitable epilation providers for all patients with valid referrals (via NHS-commissioned Gender Dysphoria Clinics) from the service start date onwards. The assumption is that the service will process 950 referrals per year.

Provide information and support on epilation to patients as needed, including on epilation modality and provider choice.

Make timely payments to epilation providers, maintaining close financial control to ensure only valid invoices are paid.

Record data on epilation referrals and treatment.

Provide a central point of contact regarding epilation for patients, surgical providers, Gender Dysphoria Clinics and Pilots and epilation providers.

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: £1,503,975

II.2) Description

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UK - United Kingdom

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Epilation is commissioned by NHS England for the alleviation of gender dysphoria, as described in the Gender Identity Services for Adults (Non-Surgical Interventions) service specification. Epilation referrals, for both facial hair reduction and surgical preparation hair removal, are currently managed by NHS England regional commissioners. This business case proposes that this function is moved to the Gender Dysphoria National Referral Support Service (GDNRSS). This is a service provided by Arden and GEM CSU and commissioned by NHS England to manage referrals for gender dysphoria surgery, including giving advice to patients and providing detailed reporting to NHS England.

The national epilation referral service to be provided by GDNRSS would:

- Arrange timely facial hair and surgical site epilation at suitable epilation providers for all patients with valid referrals (via NHS-commissioned Gender Dysphoria Clinics) from the service start date onwards. The assumption is that the service will process 950 referrals per year.
- Provide information and support on epilation to patients as needed, including on epilation modality and provider choice.
- Make timely payments to epilation providers, maintaining close financial control to ensure only valid invoices are paid.
- Record data on epilation referrals and treatment.
- Provide a central point of contact regarding epilation for patients, surgical providers, Gender Dysphoria Clinics and Pilots and epilation providers.

Note: This business case was approved through Commercial Panel on 3rd February 2022 (Reference NHS-CSU-2021-615). Due to a change in the method of paying the invoices of epilation providers, the CSU is now planned to pay the invoices directly for efficiency and be reimbursed by NHS England, which has added £1.2 million to the business case (bringing it over the £1m threshold). However, it should be noted that the £1.2 million is currently paid to epilation providers by NHS England regions and under the current proposal would be paid to epilation providers via the CSU, reimbursed by NHS England on a pass-through basis, funded by top-slicing from regions.

II.2.5) Award criteria

Price

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

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:

We did not consider it appropriate to engage with other CSUs, because a key feature of the proposal is that it is an expansion of the existing Gender Dysphoria National Referral Support Service run by Arden and GEM CSU, which has been providing good value. Benefits of using the same CSU include a central point of contact for patients and professionals regarding gender dysphoria referrals (for surgery or epilation) and the existing expertise of the Arden and GEM team regarding the gender dysphoria pathway and patient experience.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: No

Section V. Award of contract

A contract/lot is awarded: Yes

V.2) Award of contract

V.2.1) Date of conclusion of the contract

1 July 2022

V.2.2) Information about tenders

Number of tenders received: 1

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

V.2.3) Name and address of the contractor

NHS ARDEN AND GREATER EAST MIDLANDS COMMISSIONING SUPPORT UNIT

St Johns House, East Street

Leicester

LE1 6NB

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UK - United Kingdom

The contractor is an SME

No

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

Initial estimated total value of the contract/lot: £1,505,000

Lowest offer: £1,503,975 / Highest offer: £1,503,975 taken into consideration

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

High Court and Court of Appeal of England and Wales

Strand

London

WC2A 2LL

Email

InternationalRelationsJudicialOffice@judiciary.uk

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

<https://www.judiciary.uk/>