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Contract

Provision of Vein of Galen Malformation (VGAM) Service, as the Emergency back-up treatment provider

NHS England

F03: Contract award notice

Notice identifier: 2024/S 000-022160

Procurement identifier (OCID): ocids-h6vhtk-03fc6d

Published 18 July 2024, 9:04am

Section I: Contracting authority

I.1) Name and addresses

NHS England

7-8 Wellington Place

Leeds

LS1 4AP

Email

jessica.gaucher-thompson@nhs.net

Country

United Kingdom

Region code

UK - United Kingdom

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

Provision of Vein of Galen Malformation (VGAM) Service, as the Emergency back-up treatment provider

II.1.2) Main CPV code

- 85100000 - Health services

II.1.3) Type of contract

Services

II.1.4) Short description

This Contract Award Notice is to notify the market that NHS England -Specialised Commissioning have awarded a Contract to provide a Vein of Galen Malformation (VGAM) Service, as the Emergency back-up treatment provider.

NHS Arden and Greater East Midlands Commissioning Support Unit (AGCSU), on behalf of NHS England Specialised Commissioning (referred to as the Commissioner), undertook a market engagement exercise to understand the current and future capacity and capability of the incumbent and potential providers within this highly specialised area.

As a result of this exercise, it was deemed that a formal tender process was not required as it was noted that competition is absent, the Commissioner reserved the right to direct award to provider(s) with no further competition.

This contract is effective for an initial period of three (3) years from 1st April 2024, with an option to extend for a further two (2) year period.

The contract value for this service will be £180,573 per annum (at 23/24 price base). This comprises a fixed infrastructure element of £21,829 and a fixed activity element which is based on £39,686 for four cases.

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: £902,865

II.2) Description

II.2.2) Additional CPV code(s)

- 85100000 - Health services

II.2.3) Place of performance

NUTS codes

- UKD72 - Liverpool

II.2.4) Description of the procurement

Vein of Galen malformation (VGAM) is an arteriovenous malformation which typically results in high output cardiac failure. VGAMs usually occur in fetuses or new-born babies, although sometimes these problems do not present until later in life. VGAMs are extremely rare abnormalities in the blood vessels in the brain leading to excess blood flow which can result in cardiac problems.

The VGAM service in England aims to diagnose neonates, babies and children and to treat and manage patients with a confirmed VGAM diagnosis provided they are in scope to benefit from treatment. This includes acute admission, sub-acute presentation and elective referrals. This service also covers the population of Scotland.

The nationally commissioned service is currently based at Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) in London. This service is to provide national emergency cover for VGAM in the event that the Great Ormond Street Hospital service is unavailable.

Specifically, the VGAM service aims to:

- Provide accurate diagnosis;
- Assess patients with regard to indications for, and the timing of, treatment;
- Deliver high quality holistic care from a multi-disciplinary team (MDT) that may include but is not limited to: interventional neuroradiology, foetal medicine, neonatal medicine, paediatric neurology, neurosurgery and cardiology, intensive care and nursing care;
- Deliver high quality emergency interventional neuroradiology treatment of patients with VGAM:

o for those identified in the antenatal period, to confirm diagnosis then manage the assessment of the baby following elective delivery;

o for those identified post-natally or later, during the infant's first hospital admission for embolisation and any subsequent admission (typically one or two) for further embolisation) – as required during the period of emergency cover;

- Optimise medical management to reduce the risk of complications;

- Maintain clinical and service audits (risk and governance) to ensure highest standards of safety, care and clinical effectiveness;
- Work in partnership with local medical teams, primary care and the parents/carers to provide advice and optimise management of symptoms;
- Provide longer term follow up until the child reaches adulthood (GOSH only);
- Screen for and manage conditions associated with VGAM disease.

The Service is required to meet the following needs:

- a) Provision of emergency cover for an exemplary and comprehensive service for all patients referred with VGAM;
- b) Expert diagnosis of VGAM utilising the most up-to-date validated diagnostic tools and knowledge;
- c) Expert emergency management of patients with confirmed VGAM through the use of the most up-to-date clinical protocols;
- d) Effective monitoring of patients to ensure optimal functioning for the patient with regards to their VGAM;
- e) Contribute to a rolling programme of clinical audit to test current practice and inform the evolution of care in VGAM;
- f) Provision of care with a patient and family-centred focus to maximise the patient experience of care.

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:

A comprehensive market engagement exercise was conducted to understand the current and future capacity and capability of potential providers.

The exercise included a publicly accessible invitation for providers to express interest and demonstrate their capability to meet the contract requirements.

Only one provider responded to the market engagement exercise.

The response from a single provider was thoroughly assessed and deemed to be sufficient evidence of a lack of competition in the market for the specified service.

The market engagement documentation clearly stated that commissioners would consider placing direct awards where competition is deemed to be absent following a review of the market engagement responses.

Given the evidence of a lack of competition, as demonstrated by the singular response to the market engagement exercise, the award of the contract without prior publication is justified under the PCR 2015 regulations.

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

The procurement is covered by the Government Procurement Agreement: Yes

IV.2) Administrative information

IV.2.1) Previous publication concerning this procedure

Notice number: [2023/S 000-027103](#)

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 April 2024

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

AlderHey Children's NHS FT

Liverpool

L12 2AP

Country

United Kingdom

NUTS code

- UKD72 - Liverpool

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: £902,865

Total value of the contract/lot: £902,865

Section VI. Complementary information

VI.4) Procedures for review

VI.4.1) Review body

NHS Arden and GEM CSU

St John's House, East Street

Leicester

LE1 6NB

Country

United Kingdom

Internet address

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