

# Engagement Report for Specialised Dermatology Service Specification

3 January 2024, Version 1

## Topic details

<b>Programme of Care</b>	<b>Internal Medicine Programme of Care</b>
<b>Clinical Reference Group</b>	<b>Specialised Dermatology</b>
<b>Unique Reference Number (URN)</b>	<b>A12 S/a – 240501S</b>

## 1. Summary

This report summarises the feedback NHS England received from engagement during the amendment of the specialised dermatology specification, and how this feedback has been considered. Seven responses were received from healthcare organisations, professional societies, clinicians, charitable forums and individuals with knowledge and experience of treatment and care for specialised skin conditions.

Feedback was positive overall, with stakeholders registering their broad support for the suggested amendments to improve access for children to specialised services. However, some respondents specifically felt the service specification could go further with 'deregulating' the prescribing of aspects of biologic therapy to make it available in non-specialised care centres. The Specification Working Group (SWG) feedback was that whilst such decision making is not solely within the remit of the specification review group, the SWG supports the deregulation of some drugs to secondary care prescribing and will communicate this to the Dermatology Clinical Reference Group (CRG). The Dermatology CRG are already working with key stakeholders within NHS England to consider if prescribing authority can be given to non-specialised centres for some conditions.

## 2. Background

Specialised dermatology services include services provided by Specialised Dermatology Centres for Adults and Children with rare or specified common conditions with complex needs. The service includes outreach when delivered as part of a local provider informal network. Whilst the specification proposition applies to provision of care in adults and children, in some circumstances it may be necessary to see children in a separate service due to configuration of services, or where services are delivered in dedicated children's hospitals etc. Both adult and children's services can be safely delivered on the same site by consultant dermatologists where the consultant's clinical specialised training includes children and there is appropriate safeguarding in place.

The original specification was published in 2013 and the revised version released for stakeholder testing was the first subsequent amendment to that document hence all pathways were reviewed. Changes relating to Ichthyosis, and Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis were specifically tested, and respondents were favourable to the proposed changes.

## 3. Engagement Results

### 3.1 Stakeholder Testing

NHS England has a duty under Section 13Q of the NHS Act 2006 (as amended) to 'make arrangements' to involve the public in commissioning. Full guidance is available in the Statement of Arrangements and Guidance on Patient and Public Participation in Commissioning. In addition, NHS England has a legal duty to promote equality under the Equality Act (2010) and reduce health inequalities under the Health and Social Care Act (2012).

The service specification was sent for stakeholder testing during December 2023 for 2 weeks. Efforts were made to review and update the stakeholder engagement list to ensure that relevant professional societies and patient groups were contacted and asked to comment. The comments received were then shared with the SWG to enable full consideration of feedback and to support a decision on whether any additional changes to the specification might be recommended.

Respondents were asked the following questions:

1. Do you support the Equality and Health Inequalities Impact Assessment?
2. Do you have any comments regarding the proposal to amend the specification to reflect that both adults and children can be referred to a specialised dermatology centre where the consultant(s) are qualified to care for adult and child patients?
3. Do you have any comments regarding the proposal to amend the specification to reflect that Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis (LCH) is taken out of the specification?

4. Do you have any comments regarding the proposal to amend the suggested referral criteria contained in the appendices?
5. Do you have any general comments on the proposal?

### 3.2 Stakeholder testing results and summary of participants

Seven responses were received:

- Four Consultant Dermatologists responded as individuals or representing an organisation (British Association of Dermatologists)
- Two charitable societies representing dermatology patients
- One Specialised regional Commissioner

## 4 How has feedback been considered?

Responses have been carefully considered by the Specification Working Group and noted in line with the following categories:

- Level 1: Incorporated into draft document immediately to improve accuracy or clarity.
- Level 2: Issue has already been considered by the CRG in its development and therefore draft document requires no further change.
- Level 3: Could result in a more substantial change, requiring further consideration by the CRG in its work programme and as part of the next iteration of the document.
- Level 4: Falls outside of the scope of the specification and NHS England's direct commissioning responsibility.

## 5 Has anything changed in the service specification as a result of the stakeholder testing and consultation?

The comments received were considered and reviewed by the Specification Working Group as part of the process to support decisions about any changes that should be made to the service specification and EHIA.

The following changes based on the engagement responses have been made to the service specification:

- seven Level 1 amendments have been made to the service specification.
- in addition, amendments to the EHIA to incorporate feedback relating to the potential impact on people who face inequalities within health have been made.

## **Are there any remaining concerns outstanding following the consultation that have not been resolved in the final service specification?**

A number of changes have been made to the service specification to improve clarity and content/specification requirements (level 1).

There are no outstanding issues.

## **6 What are the next steps including how interested stakeholders will be kept informed of progress?**

A summary of the feedback from stakeholder engagement will be made available to the registered and relevant stakeholders.

Further discussion will take place with the NHS England Patient and Public Voice Assurance Group but it is not recommended further public consultation is required.

The stakeholder engagement report will be considered by CPAG alongside the revised specification.