**CHCP HULL NON-CANCER LYMPHOEDEMA SERVICE – GUIDANCE FOR REFERRERS**

This guidance is intended for clinicians referring into the Hull Non-Cancer Lymphoedema service for patients:

* **Who are a minimum of 18 years old**
* **Who are registered with a Hull or East Riding GP**
* **Patients with a non-cancer cause of Lymphoedema**
* **Patients with a BMI <40**
* **Patients with a BMI >40 with asymmetrical/ unilateral swelling - contact service to discuss**
* **Patients with a BMI >35 but below 40, must be committed to a significant weight loss regime – Referral to Specialist Weight Management must be made prior to the Lymphoedema Service referral**

**Exclusion criteria and options are listed within this document.**

**1) Introduction**

The Lymphoedema Service is for patients with a non-cancer cause of lymphoedema. Care will be provided at one of our Treatment Rooms, clinics are held at Bransholme Health Centre and Elliott Chappell Health Centre. In exceptional circumstances, for Hull patients only, care may be delivered in the patient’s home if the patient is housebound. The service provides assessment, treatment and education to help patients manage their symptoms and improve their quality of life, while reducing the risk of hospital admission.

**2) Referral Process and Criteria**

Patients can access the Non-Cancer Lymphoedema Service via electronic referral from their GP

**Consideration of Red Flags or Inappropriate Chronic Pain Management Referrals**

Patients under the age of 18 years

DVT and patients with systemic infection to be excluded and treated prior to referral

Patients who have lymphoedema due to cancer, their management is provided by the Acute Trust

Patients with a BMI >40

If GP suspects patient has differential diagnosis for oedema these should be excluded, such as Deep Vein Thrombosis, Arthritis, Baker Cyst and lymphatic or vascular obstruction and heart failure

If patient has a wound – a referral to Community Nursing or Treatment Room Services – via the Lower Limb Pathway, should be made

Additionally, any of the below should be managed / treated or recurrence excluded prior to referral:

* Hypertension/ Hypotension

• Diabetes

• Cellulitis

• Hyperthyroidism/ Hypothyroidism

• Previous surgery

• Previous DVT or trauma to limb

• Unstable renal failure

• Unstable heart failure

* Previous malignancy

**Information to Include in a Non-Cancer Lymphoedema Referral**

A Non-Cancer Lymphoedema referral should contain enough relevant information to enable us to make a triage decision and support treatment planning with the patient.

The following details should always be included where able:

* Duration of symptoms
* Current symptoms
* Current weight
* Current height
* BMI (mandatory)
* ABPI

**Referral Option Routes**

A completed referral form via NHS eReferral

**Triage Criteria**

Patients who are referred into the Non-Cancer Lymphoedema Service will be offered an opportunity to self – book an appointment within 6 weeks of the referral date.

The service will discharge any patient where there is evidence of lack of patient engagement with the prescribed treatment plan, following open discussions with the patient and engagement cannot be agreed within a 2-week period

**5) Exclusion Criteria and options for alternative services**

Patients **not** deemed appropriate for the Non-Cancer Lymphoedema Service:

* **Patients under the age of 18 years**
* **Patients who do not have a Hull or East Riding GP**
* **Patients with a BMI >40**
* **Patients who have lymphoedema due to cancer**
* **Patients who have a wound**

**These patients will be rejected and advised to seek the most appropriate service where available.**

**If a referral is not suitable, information will be provided to the referrer advising of the reasons.**

**The following information outlines the exclusions not suitable for the Non-Cancer Lymphoedema Service, with options for you to refer to where available or appropriate.**

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| **FOR PATIENTS WITH:** | **REFERRAL OPTIONS FOR APPROPRIATE PATIENT MANAGEMENT** |
| Cancerous Lymphoedema | Oncology Lymphoedema Service |
| Acute Myocardial Infarction | 999 |
| Lower Limb Leg Ulcer – wounds below the knee, on or above the malleolus | CHCP Lower Limb Service – via NHS eReferrals / 01482 247111 |