Accelerate CIC is working with Homerton NHS Foundation Trust to deliver Lymphoedema Services to the borough residents of City and Hackney.

The Lymphoedema Service

The service will operate Monday to Friday, 09.00-17.00 and will aim to support patients who meet the specified referral criteria. We will provide the following to clinicians and patients who access the service:

- Management advice
- Partnership working alongside practitioners to provide assessment and management guidance and care
- Specialist care to patients who meet the criteria
- Specialist advice to patients and health care professionals in managing swelling and preventing erosive skin breakdown for those on our caseload

Referrals to the Lymphoedema service can be made by:

- Health care professionals
- Allied health professionals

Indications for Referral:

1. Patients with Chronic oedema/Lymphoedema with Lymphorrhoea (weepy Legs)
2. Patients with a history of repeated cellulitis related to oedema
3. Secondary Lymphoedema/Chronic oedema; swelling that has been present for longer than 3 months not reducing on elevation and who must already be known to the Adult Community Nursing Service
4. Lymphoedema secondary to cancer
5. Primary Lymphoedema

Contra-indications to referral include:

- Patients not known to the Adult Community Nursing Service
- Patients with known ischaemia of the affected limb: an ABPI ≤0.5. If concerned refer to vascular surgeon
- Patients with unstable cardiac/renal failure as compression therapy may be contraindicated. Once stabilised referral may be made to the Lymphoedema Service if the patient is already known to the Adult Community Nursing Service
- Venous or other ulceration present: Refer to tissue viability team
- Obesity where the patient has refused a weight reducing programme or is not prepared to adopt weight reducing measures.
Referral expectations:

Service response

- Telephone enquiries will be responded to within 24 hrs (working day, Monday to Friday)
- Telephone referrals will not be accepted
- Urgent referrals to be seen within 2 weeks

These will include

- patients requiring palliative treatment
- patients with lymphorrhoea
- patients with a recent episode of cellulitis

- All other referrals will be seen within a six week time period

Please note that the short and long term success of treatment is dependent upon the patient’s ability to understand and comply with a programme of care that is tailored to suit their individual needs.

Referral Process:

Complete the Accelerate referral form or provide a full referral letter including medical history and email to: CAHCCG.AccelerateLymph.nhs.net

Discharge criteria:

- Patients who self-manage their lymphoedema and obtain repeat compression garment prescriptions from their GP.
- Patients whose needs are being met by their primary and/or social care providers.
- When there is no further scope for making an impact on a patient’s need.
- When a patient chooses not to attend Lymphoedema Clinic appointments or consistently fails to work within an agreed treatment plan.

Guidance for Referrers:

- Please include the full medical history where possible to enable a full assessment to be completed.
- All housebound patients will need to be known to Adult Community nursing services and wherever possible will be visited with the district nurse responsible for that patient’s care.
- Once patients are stable in a maintenance regime they will be discharged back to the primary carer for long term maintenance. This will usually involve repeat emollients and a 6 month hosiery review. The patient can self-refer in the initial 6-12 month period following discharge if there are any difficulties. If the patient requires service access 12 months or longer following discharge, a full referral is required to include an update of the patient’s medical history to enable a contemporary and comprehensive assessment based upon the recent history.

GP/DN additional prescribing information

There are many compression products that are now on the market available on FP10. Unfortunately EMIS does not allow for the pip code use only for made to measure products. We rely predominantly on the most accurate descriptors for these products. Please call if there is any difficulty finding the items requested, or if you have any other queries.