



## **Information Update: Electronic Referral Service (e-RS) roll-out / Paper Switch-Off Programme 18/12/2017**

As you may be aware, the Standard NHS Hospitals Contract for [2018/19](#) requires the full use of the NHS e-RS (aka Choose and Book) for all consultant-led first outpatient appointments. From 1 October 2018, hospitals will no longer be paid for activity which results from referrals made other than through e-RS. As part of the national implementation plan, providers are required to bring this date forward to get local processes in place before the national deadline.

DDLMC understand the pressure that secondary care are under to introduce these changes and are fully supportive of e-RS, but appreciate there may be circumstances where e-RS is either not possible, or appropriate; many of these instances are included on the e-RS exclusion lists which can be found [here](#) for Royal Derby Hospital (Chesterfield Royal Hospital online exclusion list pending).

We still do have some concerns relating to the introduction of this policy:

- The potential impact of the introduction of this policy on practices, particularly those who are not current high users of e-RS. Any practices requiring additional support can contact their CCG e-RS leads.
- Who holds the clinical risk if a paper referral is rejected because of the mode of referral rather than its quality?
- There is a contracting gap between primary and secondary care as there is *no obligation* in the [GP Contract 17/18](#) for use of e-RS, only a non-contractual target.

We have been actively engaged in discussions with secondary care, CCGs and NHSE representatives about these issues and we are keen to continue these discussions to ensure that the introduction of this policy is mutually beneficial for all parties. We have also raised these questions with the BMA GPC, which is seeking central guidance and resolution in discussion with the GMC; we will share any feedback to help inform a local Derbyshire solution.

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