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NHS Foundation Trust

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Dear Colleagues

## **Notification of change - Referral process to Allergy Speciality**

As part of the 22/23 operational planning guidance, and subsequent requests from NHSE London Region, Homerton Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust is undertaking a major programme of work with primary care colleagues and commissioners to transform the way we deliver outpatient services for our patients.

A significant part of the programme is to optimise care pathways. We are piloting a change in the way primary care colleagues refer patients to the Trust's Allergy services. All referrals will come through a single point of access called 'Advice and Refer' (A&R) - using the advice and guidance (A&G) pathway on e-RS (electronic referral service).

All referrals will be triaged with a view to providing advice where appropriate and directing patients to the right clinical setting, including the ability for the Trust's clinicians to convert an advice request into a referral. As a consequence, all other primary care referral pathways for Allergy services will be closed.

The move to Advice and Refer will take place on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022. The Directory of Service (DoS) will be updated to reflect this change and referrals will no longer be directly bookable through e-RS.

### **What is A&R (Advice & Refer)?**

A&R is a free text 'conversation' within e-RS that enables the GP to provide information and ask questions, which are sent directly to the selected specialty for review and response by a consultant. The consultant will have the opportunity to convert the advice request into an appointment.

Further information on the referral criteria for Allergy and how to use e-RS to make a referral can be found in the accompanying Advice & Refer GP Handbook and quick guide.

Alternatively, if you would like face to face training on how to use e-RS for A&R please email [nelcsu.gpitraining@nhs.net](mailto:nelcsu.gpitraining@nhs.net) to arrange a session.

Homerton hospital will be holding an Allergy educational session on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022 from 1pm – 2pm, chaired by lead consultant Professor Raja Rajakulasingam. A link will be sent out closer to the time.

Regards

**Mark Logan**

Associate Director of performance