

Emergent Practice Examples: Minor Surgery LES

If you have any similar examples of emergent practice you'd like to share, we'd like to hear from you. You can contact your local PCCA or send details to us at editorial@pcc.nhs.uk

Suffolk East PCTs reviewed the enhanced minor surgery service it was commissioning from GPs under a Local Enhanced Service and felt there was scope for improved:

- Value for money
- Consistency in clinical and corporate Governance
- Choice of location
- Avoidance of referrals to more expensive services.

A GPwSI service was set up in 6 sites across the PCT area using 4 GPwSIs approved by the Medical Adviser to contractor services. Whilst this change achieved improved consistency, better value for money and is popular with patients, it was very unpopular with the majority of GPs. The PCT has since reviewed arrangements in this area and worked closely with one of its Practice Based Commissioning Consortia to develop an alternative model that achieved the same key outcomes as desired above with the exception of choice of location (this was offset by offering care closer to home). This revised model has been running for 9 months now and is achieving improved value for money, patient satisfaction and more consistent governance. The PCT is in the process of offering similar terms to its practices in the west of the County and is likely to offer the same to the remainder of the County later this year.

Although this service appears to have gone full circle in that it is returning to GPs to deliver, the improvements in value for money, governance, consistency and audit would have been difficult to achieve without proving an alternative means of delivery was possible.