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Email: FOI@supplychain.nhs.uk
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14th October 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: SCCL-FOI-2024/25-100

Thank you for your FOI request received by the FOI office for the following information regarding the Pain Management Neuromodulation Framework. Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and SCCL are able to provide a response in blue below:

- Full set of criteria applied at SSDP Step 8 to Appendix 3a Lot 3 – Additional neuromodulation and associated products evaluation criteria; this must facilitate categorical understanding of attributes / factors whereby our products offered were declined, including reimbursement exclusion reasons.
[Please refer to section 3 of document 04 - Introduction to Framework agreement \(attached\).](#)
[This clause does not have any impact / weighting on items being awarded to the Framework. Any product commissioning decisions are managed by NHS England \(NHSE\) outside of the Framework.](#)
- Copy of note we understand was affixed next to detailed work category in 2023/24 to clarify excluded devices and excluded cardiac ablation reimbursement; this note was not evident from our research.
[SCCL does not hold this information. As noted above any product commissioning decisions are managed by NHSE.](#)
- Copy of neuromodulation pain management, cryotherapy and RF ablation for pain management commissioning policy cited by Category Buyer – Neuromodulation, IDDP & Occluders.
[As noted above any product commissioning decisions are managed by NHSE. Any such requests can be made at \[england.ssdp@nhs.net\]\(mailto:england.ssdp@nhs.net\).](#)

Reasons why AtriCure Cryo Nerve Block Therapy (Cryo NB) and CryoSPHERE under FRP 85028 and FRP 85029 retrospectively were considered as electrophysiology treatment type when, in fact it does not appear the retrospective conditions for use specified by the manufacturer do not indicate such.

[The Supplier Atricure Limited submitted product codes FRP85028 and FRP85029 as Surgical EP Cryoablation Probes/Pen as part of their tender submission for the Cardiac Rhythm Management, Electrophysiology and Interventional Cardiology, Radiology and](#)

Neuroradiology and Ancillary Goods and Services Framework Agreement, which commenced on 27th February 2023.

NHS Supply Chain at the time identified that the Supplier's product met the description of the evaluated product line and provided the required regulatory certificates and declarations of conformity for such products to demonstrate compliance with the specification.

Unfortunately, this appears to have been an error as NHS Supply Chain did not at the time identify that the products were not indicated for use within EP Procedures and therefore might not meet the EP Specification. This has since been highlighted to us and we are in discussions with Atricure to identify whether it meets the specification or not.

- Copy of high-cost tariff device product selection determination methods applied to Lot 3. As referenced in point 3, all Specialised Services Devices Programme (SSDP) commissioning policies and decisions are owned by NHSE not NHSSC. Any FOI requests relating to SSDP commissioning can be made via england.ssdp@nhs.net.

We hope that this response addresses your request. However, if you are dissatisfied with this response, you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to the postal or e-mail addresses above, quoting the reference number above. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

As part of any internal review the handling of your information request will be reassessed by a member of SCCL staff who was not involved in providing you with this response. If you remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you will have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act.

If you require any further information do not hesitate to contact the FOI team.

Yours sincerely

FOI Team

Supply Chain Coordination Limited
Management Function of NHS Supply Chain