Secondary Care Referral Criteria into the SPHERE Bladder and Bowel Service

It is the responsibility of the referrer to exclude and investigate all red flags prior to referring into the SPHERE Service. Guidelines can be found within the SPHERE webpage:


Eligibility Criteria for Referral into the Clinical SPHERE Team:
Men and women age 16 years and living within NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde area, presenting with:

- Stress and/or urge urinary incontinence or overactive bladder symptoms
- Stress and/or urge faecal incontinence
- Grade 1-2 vaginal prolapse
- Grade 3-4 vaginal prolapse if already seen in secondary care (with or without pessary in situ)

Exclusions to the SPHERE Clinical Team:

- Patients with any red flags should be referred to Secondary Care. Once investigated, they can then be seen within SPHERE
- Patients who require hospital transport (please refer to the community nursing team)
- Nursing care home patients (should be assessed by the trained nurse within the care home)
- Residential care home patients (should be assessed by the district nurse)
- Patients who are currently attending Secondary Care for the same problem (although they may be discharged into SPHERE for conservative therapies)
- Patients who are pregnant or <12 weeks post natal (should be seen through the maternity services)
- Previous Glasgow postcodes now covered by NHS Lanarkshire and not covered by SPHERE: All G65, G72, G73, G82-G85 plus G33 6 and G69 0

Essential Information

- Patient’s title, name, address and CHI number
- Referrer’s contact details
- Medical / surgical history and current medications
- Description of presenting complaint including any relevant investigation or treatment to date
- Any special needs / assistance requirements
- If an interpreter is required and the language spoken

Sending of Referrals

Secondary Care referrals will be accepted from Urology, Gynaecology, Uro-Gynaecology and the MS nursing team. These should be emailed to the SphereBBservice@ggc.scot.nhs.uk and titled ‘SPHERE Referral’.

All other secondary care referrals should be sent via the GP.