**Patient specific protocols (PSPs)**

 **INTRODUCTION:**

**Patient Specific Protocols are designed to help patients have conversations with their GPs or other healthcare specialists to ensure that patients are able (a) to understand the purpose of a Patient Specific Protocol (PSP) and (b) to encourage patients to make appointments with their healthcare specialists in order to draw up a protocol that sets out patients’ conditions and treatment. This can then be transmitted to, and used by the London Ambulance Service, doctors and others to ensure that patients’ condition and treatments are known and understood and their needs are met.**

**These could be for identifying:**

* Illnesses outside the usual range of conditions treated by paramedics (i.e. not within the care guidelines usually followed by our clinicians)
* Specific treatment for high risk, long term or rare medical conditions – for example, cardiac, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), other respiratory conditions and a history of life threatening presentations of sickle cell disorders, e.g. splenic sequestration.
* Children with complicated or life-limiting conditions, or where for example it has been agreed that resuscitation is not in their best interests
* End of life, and other life-limiting (palliative care) conditions, including whether to be taken to hospital and stating the preferred place to die
* Situations where it is agreed not to attempt Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation (DNA-CPR)

**How do they work?**

* There are two parts to a PSP - an address ‘flag’ and the guidance itself.
* Whenever a 999 call is made from the registered address, an alert will appear on the call-taker’s screen notifying them that clinical information regarding the patient is held.
* This same message will also be sent to the computer screen of the ambulance crew who are dispatched to the call. Clinicians in the control room can access the information and relay it to our crews.
* Patients who are successful in obtaining a PSP will be informed that their details have been accepted by the London Ambulance Service.

**How do I register for my own patient specific protocol?**

* Should you wish for a PSP to be considered, please speak to your doctor who will discuss the benefits with you. If you agree this it is the best way to ensure you receive the care you need for your condition, your doctor can refer your Patient Specific Protocol (PSP) to: HCP.LAS@NHS.NET

**Please note: the London Ambulance Service (LAS) cannot accept referrals for a PSP directly from patients.**