

Northern Ireland Stroke Network Update on Availability of Carotid Endarterectomy

May 2020

Further to the **Northern Ireland Stroke Network Guidance for Stroke Service Management during the COVID-19 Pandemic, 16th April 2020** and with the improving COVID-19 situation, it is likely that access to a limited Carotid Endarterectomy service will become available sooner than had been originally anticipated. Careful triage will remain necessary.

As a limited service becomes available, the vascular team will consider referral for urgent CEA in patients who are at low/medium surgical risk and have compelling carotid territory symptoms in presence of severe ipsilateral ICA stenosis. For referrals from outside Belfast, this should be confirmed using CTA prior to referral. Assessment of COVID-19 status should also be completed prior to referral.