

## BAA President Blog – 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022

I hope you are not too affected by the recent storms. Just a short blog today.

A couple of the board met with Elaine Sheerin (NHSEI), Kay Belton, Shakira Ali and Sarah Kemp, who are all involved in looking at PIFU for Audiology.

Apologies for those who know what PIFU is, but here is a brief explanation for those who don't. PIFU stands for patient initiated follow up, and there is currently a large push for this to be fully embedded in the NHS outpatient flow. Now, in audiology, we have been doing this for as long as I can remember, in terms of patients contacting us post hearing aid fitting for further reviews or hearing assessments. AQP (for those involved with this), changed that slightly with the introduction of the 3-year pathway, with some option of PIFU for further follow ups.

So, is it a good idea for Audiology to have PIFU? NHSEI are looking at what parts of our system would fit well, and what tariff may go with this. They are also looking at remote consultation and referral optimisation. We are already familiar with remote consultations and where this works for us. However, referral optimisation is another thread, and looking where Audiology may be a better option for some referrals, rather than them seeing ENT first. I have been working on this in my Trust.

So, Elaine has asked if you are already using PIFU successfully or have already started seeing patients as direct referral for vestibular or therapies. If you would like to be part of the next meeting, please let BAA know and we can arrange this. Email [admin@baaudiology.org](mailto:admin@baaudiology.org) if you want to be involved.

Take care

*Kath Lewis*