*This report -* [*http://www.buckinghamshire.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/11.9.27-Brd-Mtg-Paper-33-report.pdf*](http://www.buckinghamshire.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/11.9.27-Brd-Mtg-Paper-33-report.pdf) *-* says that 64 patients were declined funding *(ie, denied treatment)* as part of an effort to reverse poor performance on waiting times. *Can you tell me what low priority procedures were involved?* **To clarify, these 64 patients were not declined funding in order to improve performance against the 18 week target. They were referred for treatment despite not meeting the referral criteria and would have been removed from the list regardless of performance factors. The PCT publishes its policies for the treatment of conditions and the criteria for GP referrals on its website. These include, but are not limited to, cosmetic procedures, treatment for snoring and sleep apnoea, Carpal Tunnel surgery and bunion removal. For more information on threshold dependent procedures please visit:** [**www.buckinghamshire.nhs.uk/your-pct/individual-case-review-panel/**](http://www.buckinghamshire.nhs.uk/your-pct/individual-case-review-panel/)

*Also, the paper says referrals to secondary care are going up – despite it being the PCT’s plan to make them go down. Why is this?* **The levels of referrals to secondary care constantly fluctuate, however whilst the current levels are slightly higher than the last reporting period in a minority of areas, they are lower in the majority of specialities and overall referral levels are down compared to the same period last year.**

*Are there any particular specialties where the pressure is most severe?* **Referrals to Trauma and Orthopaedics are affected, reflecting the national picture, as are some referrals to Plastics due to the links between some plastics procedures with T&O, e.g. Carpal Tunnel surgery.**

*Finally – can you tell me what the timescales are for these figures*? **Year to date. The next Board report will have the most up to date information.**