

NHS Funds: Meeting Increased Demand For Services

NHS East Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group buys healthcare on behalf of the local population. The money for this comes from a fixed budget. By law, we are required to keep within this budget.

Demand for healthcare is greater than can be funded from this fixed budget. Unfortunately, this means that some healthcare which patients might wish to receive, and which your doctor or specialist might wish to offer, cannot be funded.

This is consistent with other NHS organisations who buy healthcare services for their local community, and we are always looking for the fairest ways to offer affordable, high quality care to all our patients.

What This Means For You

This may mean that your doctor is not able to offer you a certain treatment because it would not be funded by the local NHS.

Although most doctors recognise the need to stay within a fixed budget, she/he may be uncomfortable with this policy because of its implications for you as a patient.

Even so, your doctor is required to observe the policy, because the local NHS has put it into effect. It is the best way to ensure that local NHS funds are spent on the things that will bring greatest overall benefit to local people in a way that is affordable and fair.

Which Treatments Are Affected

The following list contains examples of some of the treatments that are currently not funded or are restricted.

- Surgical treatment of Uncomplicated Varicose Veins – strict criteria applies

- Treatment for a range of benign Minor Skin Lesions except in specific circumstances.
- Grommets, Tonsillectomy, Adenoidectomy, Surgery for Sleep Apnoea - strict criteria applies
- Hip and Knee Replacement – strict criteria applies
- Knee Arthroscopies - strict criteria applies
- Gallstones (Cholecystectomy) - strict criteria applies
- Treatments for Snoring
- Hysterectomy for Heavy Menstrual Bleeding – strict criteria applies
- Caesarean Section (elective) – strict criteria applies
- Cataracts – strict criteria applies
- Labial Surgery – strict criteria applies
- Circumcision – medical reasons only
- Haemorrhoidectomy – strict criteria applies
- Inguinal Hernia Repair – strict criteria applies
- Reversal of Sterilisation
- Back pain and Injections – strict criteria applies
- Surgery for Dupuytren's disease, Excision of Ganglion, – strict criteria applies
- Cosmetic Treatments except in very specific circumstances.

For a full list of all treatments and applicable exclusions and criteria, please refer to the Commissioning policy covering Procedures of Low Clinical Value at <http://www.eaststaffscg.nhs.uk/gp>

Occasionally in exceptional circumstances, some procedures can be funded by applying through the Individual Funding Request (IFR) procedure, further details of which can be found on the following website; <http://sesandspccg.nhs.uk/news-and-information/individual-funding-requests-ifr>

Applications for individual funding can only be made through your doctor, who will be informed of the outcome and, if approved, they will refer you for treatment in the normal way. If funding is not granted, the reasons will be explained to you.

What if I am not happy with the decision?

Decisions are based on strict medical criteria and so are usually clear-cut. If you are not happy with the decision, you can ask your doctor to apply again with more medical information. The decision is based on medical evidence, so if you submit new evidence your case will be re-examined.

For the complete list of Procedures of Low Clinical Value which also describes the circumstances in which these types of procedures may be approved (the criteria), please visit our website at <http://www.eaststaffscg.nhs.uk/gp>

We would welcome any feedback, complaints or compliments, on any of our services. We are happy to answer any questions you may have about this policy. Contact: feedback@staffordshireccs.nhs.uk

Or ring **0800 030 4563** - There is also a 24 hour answer phone service

This leaflet has been produced for patients of Queen's Hospital, Burton.

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Commissioning Quality Care 

Policy on Procedures of Low Clinical Value

What does this policy mean for you? (And why your doctor has to observe it)

We aim to provide fair and equal care for all patients, and like any public service, we have to stick to a budget in order to achieve this.

To help us stay within this budget and meet increasing demand for health services in your area, some routine treatments are now described as 'Procedures of Low Clinical Value' (PoLCV). These are procedures which national experts have suggested have only limited or temporary benefit, and which are not felt to be necessary to maintain good health. This means they need to be considered on a case by case basis and meet strict criteria before they can be provided on the NHS.

This leaflet explains why we have introduced this policy and tells you what happens if your doctor or consultant thinks that you may benefit from a treatment that is not usually available on the NHS.

