



Low-priority procedure policies:
**making decisions on
funding treatments**

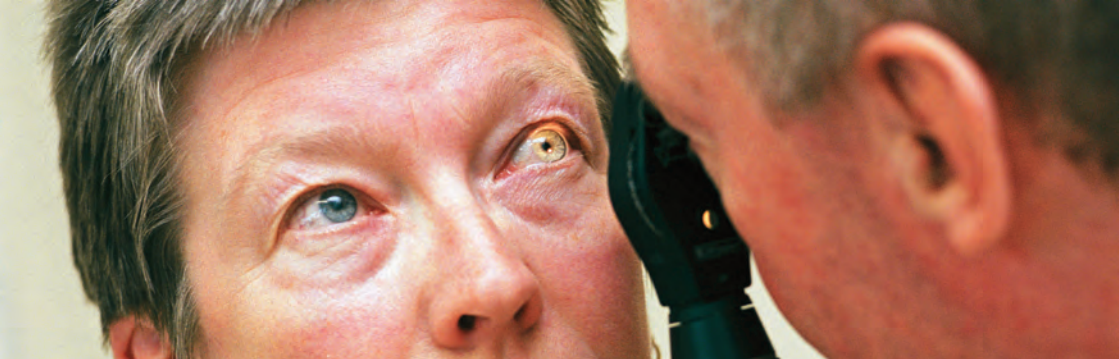
Low priority procedure policies: making decisions on funding treatments

Why do we have these policies?

NHS Suffolk aims to provide excellent healthcare to the people of Suffolk through buying the best services, but like all other NHS organisations we have limited resources and have to prioritise funding of treatments.

Some new treatments may have little scientific evidence (clinical and cost effectiveness) to fund them. If there is not sufficient or good quality evidence (clinical effectiveness) and or lack of evidence on the value for money for healthcare interventions (cost effectiveness) these are agreed as low priority procedures and are not normally funded.

We use a transparent mechanism of decision making to develop the list of low priority procedure policies. The responsibility of the Clinical Prioritisation Group (CPG) is to take these fair decisions. The CPG includes executive and non-executive members from NHS Suffolk; pharmacists from both NHS Suffolk and the two local hospitals, staff from the public health, commissioning and finance departments of the NHS Suffolk, clinicians and managers from Ipswich and West Suffolk Hospital, as well as GP and patient/public representatives.



What are the policies?

The CPG has developed two types of treatment policies:

- **Threshold policies**
- **Partially-excluded policies**

Threshold policies have criteria (or rules) that a patient should meet to be eligible to have the treatment funded by NHS Suffolk. Partially-excluded policies are those which are not normally funded by NHS Suffolk.

The reasons for such a decision are:

- 1) The available scientific evidence shows that the treatment is either not clinically effective and or offer value for money (cost effective).
- 2) Evidence of effectiveness and/or safety of the treatment is not available, so an informed decision on whether or not we should fund the treatment can be arrived at.

These policies can be found online here:

<http://www.suffolk.nhs.uk/lpp>

Telephone 01473 770014 or email comms@suffolkpct.nhs.uk
for printed copies.

How policies are developed and kept updated?

Policies are developed and reviewed regularly, based on latest research evidence and guidelines – along with views of local hospital doctors, GPs and patient representatives.

How do I get a treatment covered by a partially-excluded policy or I do not fulfil the criteria of a threshold policy?

If you and your doctor feel that a treatment not normally funded by NHS Suffolk would benefit you, your doctor can apply to the NHS Suffolk's Individual Funding Request (IFR) Panel on your behalf. The IFR panel will consider the request based on current research evidence and your particular case. IFR leaflet can be obtained from NHS Suffolk by telephoning Christine Foster on 01473 770068

For more information or advice regarding the CPG policies, please contact:

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