

GLOUCESTERSHIRE PRIMARY CARE TRUSTS

EXCEPTIONS TO THE LIST OF INTERVENTIONS NOT NORMALLY FUNDED

A POLICY STATEMENT

Introduction

The Gloucestershire Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) will not normally purchase any of the procedures listed in the PCTs' 'List of Interventions Not Normally Funded'. There may, however, be people whose clinical circumstances are sufficient to warrant an exception being made.

For the guidance of prospective patients, their general practitioners and specialists, the PCTs have set out below the process for considering individual circumstances and the factors which will be considered when an application under the Exceptions policy has been received.

Applications should be submitted to the relevant PCT according to the patient's GP registration. In some cases, the PCT may request that representatives from the wider clinical community provide advice on an application.

Principles

In order for the PCT to consider an application for an exception, *the clinician(s) involved* – the referring practitioner (the patient's GP, a local consultant or both) **and/or** the relevant specialist/consultant ***if the patient has been seen at the time of the application***, will need to share the opinion that the clinical circumstances are very unusual and an exception should be made to our usual purchasing policy.

An application for an exception can be made by the referring practitioner or a specialist. Patients can make a written representation, should they wish to do so, along with the reports of the referring practitioner and the specialist.

All applications for an exception should be made, in writing, to the relevant PCT who will make the decision if an exception should be made. Occasionally, representatives from the wider clinical community may be requested to provide advice on a decision.

The decision on making an exception will be made on the basis of the submitted written evidence.

Process

The PCT will only consider exceptions to its purchasing policy if the following conditions are met:

- The referring practitioner and the relevant specialist (if appropriate) provide a written submission to the PCT indicating the basis on which the circumstances are said to be exceptional, including:
 - a clear statement why / how the clinical circumstances in this case are different from the majority of patients requesting this intervention
 - any evidence which supports the view that the clinical situation is exceptional, including any research evidence available to show that the proposed intervention is appropriate
 - a trial protocol in the case of unproven interventions which are being offered as part of an assessment study
 - if the proposed intervention is likely to lead to a demonstrable significant and lasting improvement in the patient's morbidity and general health
 - arrangements for review and follow up of the patient, after completion of the intervention, to evaluate the effectiveness of the intervention.
- It is open to the referring practitioner, the relevant specialist and the PCT to seek further clinical opinion in order to arrive at an informed judgement on the particular circumstances of individual cases.
- Provided that the PCT is satisfied that the referring practitioner and specialist have provided adequate information on all of the issues identified above, it will consider whether the proposed intervention should be funded.
- The decision of the PCT will be given in writing to the patient and to the referring practitioner(s), stating the reasons for the decision and the information on which the decision was based.
- It is open to patients who are dissatisfied with the decision of the PCT to appeal against the decision. The PCT will inform patients how to make an appeal, when writing to the patients confirming their decision.

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