

Decision-making principles

We abide by the South Central Ethical Framework, which says decisions must be fair, consistent and equitable.

We take all these factors into account:

- The patient's clinical need
- The effectiveness of the treatment
- The cost of the treatment

What happens if my request is turned down?

Your doctor and you will hear the result of your request within two weeks of the Panel decision. If the decision is that we cannot approve your request, you have three months in which to ask for a review.

For more information on the review process visit:
www.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/ifreview

If you wish to talk to someone about this, or to make a complaint, contact Patient Services on: 0800 052 6088

Or write to us at:

Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group
Jubilee House
5510 John Smith Drive
Oxford Business Park South
Oxford
OX4 2LH

Will the NHS pay for my treatment?

A guide for patients on how Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) considers requests for treatments that are not normally funded.



Every year, Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) gets money from the government to pay for health services for every patient registered with an Oxfordshire GP.

It is our job to make sure we spend this money wisely in a way that benefits the whole community.

The demand for healthcare grows every year, but unfortunately the NHS cannot afford to pay for every treatment that is available. We get a fixed amount of money to deliver local health services and we have a legal duty not to overspend.

This legal requirement means that some hard choices often have to be made about what we can afford and what we cannot. We try to do this in a way that is fair, consistent and equitable. Treatments that are not funded are known as 'low priority treatments' or 'treatments not normally funded'.

Can I get a 'low priority treatment' on the NHS?

NHS clinicians (GPs, hospital doctors and certain other health professionals) can ask OCCG to consider funding a low priority treatment for one of their patients.

Funding may only be approved if:

1. There is something significantly different about your clinical circumstances when compared with others with the same condition who would not receive the treatment **AND**
2. As a result of this difference, you are likely to gain significantly more benefit from the treatment than would generally be expected.

There must also be sufficient evidence to show that the treatment is effective. Finally the cost of the treatment must be proportionate to the potential benefit. See OCCG's Exception's Guidance at www.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/ifr.

How do we make individual decisions?

Your doctor sends us a request which is then considered in confidence by the Individual Funding Request (IFR) Team. You may ask your doctor to include a letter from you so you can tell us how your condition affects your day to day life. A decision may be made at that stage, or it may then be submitted to the IFR Panel composed of doctors, pharmacists and managers.

The Individual Funding Request (IFR) Panel

The IFR Panel meets every month and considers all requests carefully, taking into account local policy, national guidance and the clinical information which your doctor has sent in.

What happens:

