



What happens at the IFR Monthly Panel?

If your funding application has been referred to the IFR panel, it will be considered by a group of clinicians who meet on a monthly basis.

The panel includes GP's, a Public Health Consultant and other health professionals. The Monthly Panel is chaired by either the CCG's Director of Nursing or another senior health professional.

The panel will review all completed applications and decide if they meet the points below:

Clinical need: your referrer must provide evidence for this when supporting your case, using clinical judgement and evidence.

Clinical effectiveness: your referrer must demonstrate the effectiveness of the treatment or operation in your case.

Equity: there must be an exceptional clinical reason why you need to receive the treatment over and above other patients with a similar condition for whom treatment is not available.

Impact of refusal: what would happen if treatment was denied, what alternative could be offered?

The panel will either approve or decline your application based on how the information they have about your case meets the criteria above.

What can I do if my case does not get approved?

Your referrer can appeal within **30 working days** of receiving the IFR Monthly Panel decision in writing.

If new and relevant information about your case is presented, it will be reviewed at the next IFR Monthly Panel meeting.

For more information about what the CCG does and does not fund, visit our website at:

<https://www.bathandnortheastsomersetccg.nhs.uk/documents/what-we-do-and-dont-fund>

What other support is available?

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) is here to advise and support patients, their families and carers, provide information on NHS services and listen to your suggestions, as well as answering any queries or sorting out any concerns you may have about the care we provide.

PALS can be contacted at:

T. 01225 831717
E. bseccg.feedback@nhs.net

Address:

PALS and Complaints Department
NHS Bath and North East Somerset CCG
St. Martins Hospital
Clara Cross Lane
Bath
BA2 5RP

Individual Funding Requests (IFR) including Exceptional Funding

Patient information Leaflet

What is an Individual Funding Request (IFR)?

The NHS has a duty to spend the money it receives from the Government in a fair way, taking into account the health needs of the whole community.

The Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)'s job is to get the best value for this money on behalf of the local population, taking into account the growing demand for healthcare

If a treatment is not usually funded by the NHS, there are still ways that you can apply to receive funding for it. This can be by meeting certain conditions before treatment (**Prior Approval**) or under exceptional circumstances (**Exceptional Funding**).

What is Prior Approval?

Prior Approval applies in the case of some treatments and drugs that are funded if you meet certain criteria.

When the CCG receives a request from your GP/hospital consultant (referrer) for Prior Approval of a treatment, we assess the situation against the Prior Approval criteria for your condition. If the information provided by the referrer shows that your case meets the criteria, funding for your treatment, drug or operation will be approved.

Our webpage has further information about IFR and a complete list of all conditions that need IFR funding.

<https://www.bathandnortheast Somersetccg.nhs.uk/documents/what-we-do-and-dont-fund>

What is Exceptional Funding?

Exceptional Funding is when NHS money is used for operations, drugs and other health conditions that is not normally funded by the CCG.

To ensure this money is spent effectively and efficiently, the highest priority for funding will be given to people who need treatments that have proven benefits and that meet the health needs of our local population.

The CCG will consider such cases on their own merits through the Exceptional Funding process.

The sorts of circumstances in which a patient may receive Exceptional Funding are:

- The patient's situation differs significantly to the general population of patients with that condition, or
- The patient is likely to gain significant benefit from the treatment requested compared with what is normally expected for a patient with that condition.

These are described as "exceptional circumstances".

Applying for individual funding including Exceptional Funding?

Where a treatment or intervention needs funding agreement, your GP or hospital consultant must complete and submit an application on your behalf. With regards to Exceptional Funding, your GP or hospital consultant will need to complete an application form and state the reasons why the CCG should make an exception in your case.

You will be asked to indicate that you have consented to disclosure of personal information and/or medical records relevant to your case.

What happens when an IFR request is received?

After reviewing your IFR application, one of the following will happen:

Your case will be approved if the criteria in the policy are met,

or

if further information is required, then the IFR team will contact the referrer to request this,

or

your case may need to be reviewed by the **IFR Monthly Panel**.

If your case needs reviewing, your referrer will be notified of the date of the panel and offered the opportunity to submit further supporting information. This additional process can sometimes delay your referral or treatment but we will always do our best to minimise the delay.