



## **Policy for Procedures or Services that are Restricted or Not Routinely Funded**

### **What this policy means for you and why your doctor has to observe it:**

Some routine treatments are now described as “*restricted*” or “*not routinely funded*”. These are treatments which national experts have suggested only have limited or temporary benefit and which are not felt to be necessary to maintain good health.

**Restricted** means that the request for treatment needs to be considered on a case-by-case basis and meet strict eligibility criteria before they can be provided on the NHS. (See examples overleaf).

**Not Routinely Funded** means that this procedure or service is not normally available for patients.

### **NHS Funds: Meeting Increased Demand for Services:**

The Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in Mansfield and Ashfield and Newark and Sherwood buy 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 is not routinely funded or restricted and has clear eligibility criteria that patients must meet in order to receive the funding.

Although most doctors recognise the need to stay within a fixed budget, they 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 currently restricted.

- Grommets, tonsillectomy, adenoidectomy, surgery for sleep apnoea
- Hysterectomy for heavy menstrual bleeding
- Cataracts
- Haemorrhoidectomy
- Inguinal hernia repair
- Test for confirming Irritable Bowel Syndrome in adults
- Back surgery and injections
- Surgery for Dupuytren's, Removal of Ganglion, and Joint Injections
- Carpal Tunnel
- Sleep Studies
- Varicose veins

For a full list of all treatments and applicable exclusions and criteria, please refer to the Service Restriction Policy on your CCG website (see overleaf).

The CCGs recognise there will be exceptional circumstances when funding for these treatments may be appropriate. In the same way that the CCGs have an Individual Funding Request (IFR) process for considering funding for individuals who seek NHS commissioned services outside established commissioning policies, there is also a process to consider "special cases" that do not fit the IFR criteria but may require consideration of special circumstances against CCG Service Restriction Policy.

For further detail, please refer to the CCGs' Special Case Funding Policy which can be found on the following CCG Website:-

**Mansfield and Ashfield CCG** <http://www.mansfieldandashfieldccg.nhs.uk/>  
**Newark and Sherwood CCG** <http://www.newarkandsherwoodccg.nhs.uk/>

Applications for individual funding via the Special Case Funding Policy 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 under the Special Case Funding Policy?**

Decisions are based on strict medical criteria and so are usually clear-cut. If you are not happy with the decision about a procedure/treatment for which you have not been given approval, you should discuss this with your GP. If your GP is able to provide evidence that there are exceptional clinical circumstances your GP may submit an Individual Funding Request (IFR). For an IFR to be considered your condition must be clinically significantly different to that of other patients with your condition. The CCG policy relating to IFRs can be viewed on the CCG Website:

**Mansfield and Ashfield CCG** <http://www.mansfieldandashfieldccg.nhs.uk/>

**Newark and Sherwood CCG** <http://www.newarkandsherwoodccg.nhs.uk/>

The Patient Experience Team can offer help and support and can also provide you with a copy of the above policies. Please see the contact details of the Patient Experience Teams below:

Patient Experience Team By email  
[NSHCCG.Pet-North@nhs.net](mailto:NSHCCG.Pet-North@nhs.net)

By telephone  
**0800 0283693** (Press for option 1)

Or write to  
Patient Experience Team  
NHS Newark and Sherwood and NHS Mansfield and  
Ashfield CCGs  
Balderton Primary Care Centre  
Lowfield Lane  
Balderton  
Nottinghamshire  
NG21 0HJ

We would welcome feedback, complaints or compliments on any of our services. We are happy to answer any question you may have about the policy. Please see your CCG website for further details:-

NHS Mansfield and Ashfield CCG  
[www.mansfieldandashfieldccg.nhs.uk](http://www.mansfieldandashfieldccg.nhs.uk)

NHS Newark and Sherwood CCG  
[www.newarkandsherwoodccg.nhs.uk](http://www.newarkandsherwoodccg.nhs.uk)