

## Approval process

The panel approve funding for the treatment only if :

- Exceptional clinical circumstances are demonstrated
- The condition is rare, and there is no local policy
- Funding the treatment can be justified in the light of the clinical benefits which are likely to be gained

## What if I am unhappy with the decision?

If you do not think your case has been properly or fairly considered, you can appeal. You must do this within one month of the date on the letter you receive about the decision.

To ensure a fair process, the Appeal Panel and IFR Panel members are completely different. The Appeal Panel is only able to consider whether the IFR Panel applied the rules correctly and fairly. They will not consider new evidence. If new information becomes available, your case will be sent back to the IFR Panel to be looked at again.

If you wish to complain about the decision making process, please contact the Complaints Officer at NHS Brighton and Hove who will investigate whether the process followed was correct.

## More information

For more information, please visit our website at:

[www.brightonandhove.nhs.uk/righttreatment/nhsfundingforindividuals](http://www.brightonandhove.nhs.uk/righttreatment/nhsfundingforindividuals)

## Patient Advice and Liaison Service

You can also contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) who can help you when you need advice and information. They can be reached on 0800 013 0251 or [brightonandhovepals@nhs.net](mailto:brightonandhovepals@nhs.net).

**Email:** [bhv-pct.BrightonIFRSubmissionRequests@nhs.net](mailto:bhv-pct.BrightonIFRSubmissionRequests@nhs.net)

**Tel:** (01273) 574815 **Fax:** (01273) 574830

**NHS Brighton and Hove**  
Lanchester House  
Trafalgar Place  
Brighton BN1 4FU

## Will the NHS pay for my treatment?

A guide to how NHS Brighton and Hove decides whether to pay for specialist or new treatments and treatments that are not routinely funded

Every year NHS Brighton and Hove receives money from the Government to pay for healthcare for everyone registered with a GP in the city.

Our job is to get best value for money by spending wisely.

Demand for healthcare is growing. New, and often expensive, treatments are becoming available all the time.

However, we only have a set amount of money to spend. So difficult decisions may have to be made and there are some treatments we do not usually fund.

This leaflet explains how your doctor can ask us to pay for a treatment for you that we would not usually fund.

## Our priority

We must be sure that the medicines and treatments we fund show that they **improve people's health** and offer **good value for money**.

## How do we decide what to pay for?

Most treatments are freely available on the NHS to anyone who needs them. Sometimes, though, we have to make choices about treatments which are very expensive or where there is limited evidence of benefit.

We make these choices after we have looked at what is known about how well the treatment works, and how much it costs compared to other treatments, in a way which is **fair, consistent** and **equitable**.

We make our decisions with the help of the **National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE)** and other professional groups. See [www.nice.org.uk](http://www.nice.org.uk) for more information.

## Funding specialist treatments

Your GP or consultant may ask NHS Brighton and Hove to pay for a specialist treatment that we do not usually fund, if one of the two following reasons apply:

- You have a medical condition that is **rare** and for that reason it is not covered by any NHS Brighton and Hove policy.
- If your doctor feels there are **exceptional clinical** circumstances related to your case. This is difficult to define but generally a case would be considered exceptional if your clinical circumstances were different from those presented by at least 95 percent of patients with the same medical condition at the same stage of their illness. We would also expect only about one similar case a year to occur amongst people living locally.

If your doctor can show that either of the above apply, your case is then considered through what is known as an **Individual Funding Request (IFR)**.

When an Individual Funding Request is received, NHS Brighton and Hove:

- judges whether the request meets one of the reasons given above
- checks there is enough information provided so that we can come to a decision. In order to provide the required level of information, some conditions may need to be photographed and the photos sent by your doctor with your funding request.

If the request is appropriate and the information is complete, the request will be considered by a special panel, which includes clinicians.

To ensure a fair process, all cases are treated in confidence and anonymously.

The panel meets regularly and all cases will be judged by the panel on an individual basis.

## The IFR Panel

The panel consists of a mix of clinically qualified and managerial members including:

- A GP
- A public health representative
- A commissioning representative
- A lay member
- Head of Prescribing and Medicines Commissioning (in cases involving drugs)

## How does the panel make decisions?

Panel members have the professional skills to judge the clinical information and evidence that your doctor has provided.

The panel works under an agreed set of ethical rules which states that any decisions must be **fair, consistent and equitable**.