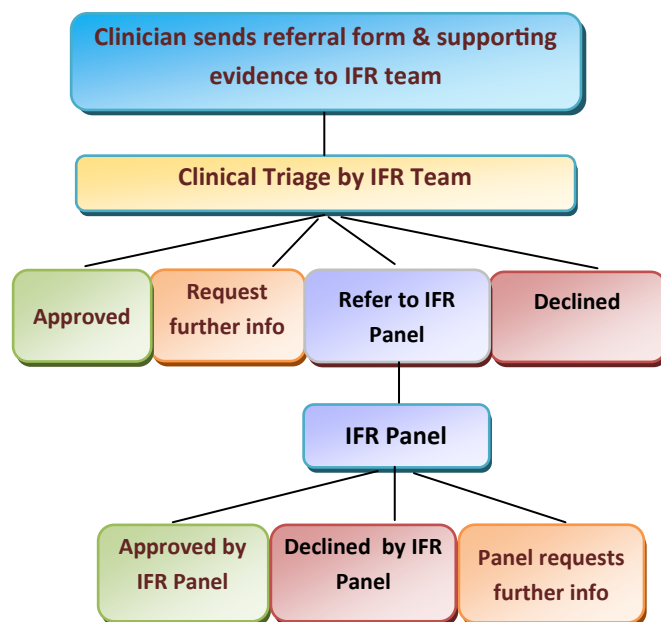


## What happens after the decision is made?

If your treatment is approved, your clinician will be informed of the decision in writing and will contact you to get your treatment underway.

If the funding request is declined, you will be informed directly in writing. This will include information on what you can do next.

### IFR Process



## Contact Us

If you would like this leaflet in a different format, such as large print, braille or in a different language, please contact us at the CCG—details below.

Write to us:

NHS Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group  
West Offices  
Station Rise  
York  
Y01 6GA

Telephone: 01904 555870

Email: [valeofyork.contactus@nhs.net](mailto:valeofyork.contactus@nhs.net)

Further information about our IFR policy and links can be found on our website

[www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/](http://www.valeofyorkccg.nhs.uk/)



**Vale of York**  
**Clinical Commissioning Group**

# Will the NHS fund my treatment?



## Individual Funding Requests

This leaflet explains how NHS Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) makes decisions about providing treatments which are not normally available through the NHS in this area

## Why does the CCG need to have an Individual Funding Request policy?

Every year the CCG receives money from the Government to pay for healthcare for everyone registered with a GP in the area. The NHS has limited resources, and we have a duty to manage them carefully.

Demand for healthcare is growing. New and often expensive treatments are becoming available all the time. Our priority is to pay for those medicines and treatments that have **good scientific evidence for their safety and effectiveness** and **offer good value for money**.

As a result there are some treatments we do not normally pay for.

Our Individual Funding Request (IFR) policy sets out the principles behind our decisions on individual treatments. It also explains the system we have for processing each individual request for treatment. This policy is available on the CCG website.

This leaflet explains how your doctor, NHS Consultant, or other healthcare specialist (all referred to from now on as clinician) can ask us, on your behalf, to pay for a treatment that we do not normally fund.

## What happens if a treatment is not normally available?

Your clinician can make an Individual Funding Request (IFR) for either of two reasons:

- (a) for treatment which is not routinely funded
- (b) or for a treatment which is funded in line with specific criteria, which you do not meet.

For either of the above, funding can only be approved if a case of **“exceptional clinical need”** has been demonstrated.

## What is “exceptional clinical need”?

A patient may be considered to be clinically exceptional to the general policy if **both** of the following apply:

- the patient is significantly different from the general population of patients with the condition in question **and**
- the patient is likely to gain significantly more benefit from the intervention than might normally be expected for patients with that condition.

**It is important for patients to be aware that only evidence of clinical need will be considered. Factors such as gender, ethnicity, age, lifestyle or other social factors such as employment or parenthood will not be considered. The fact that the treatment might be effective for the patient is not, in itself, grounds for exceptionality.**

## The IFR process

Your clinician will complete a referral form and forward it to the IFR Team along with any supporting clinical information. It is the responsibility of the requesting clinician to demonstrate why they feel your case may be suitable for individual funding.

## What happens next?

Your application will be clinically triaged. That is, it will be assessed by the IFR Team, which includes a qualified Nurse specifically trained in the IFR process.

If there is not enough information provided, your case will be returned to your clinician for further supporting information.

If the request fulfils the IFR policy for your CCG, then your application will be approved. If the criteria have not been met and clinical exceptionality has not been sufficiently demonstrated, your application will be declined. If your application is more complex then it will be submitted to an IFR Panel.

## How does an IFR Panel make decisions?

The IFR Panel consists of two CCG GPs who are supported by appropriate specialists who will assess the clinical information and evidence that your clinician has provided.

The Panel considers the application against set criteria laid down in the CCG's commissioning policies and will support funding if exceptional clinical need has clearly been demonstrated.

