

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What if I am not happy with the decision?

Decisions are based on strict clinical criteria and so are usually clear-cut. If you are not happy with the decision you can ask your GP to apply again with more clinical information. The decision is based on clinical evidence, so if you submit new evidence that can clearly demonstrate exceptionality we will re-examine your case.

We would welcome any feedback, complaints or compliments, on any of our services. We are happy to answer any questions you may have about this policy.

Contact: [feedback@staffordshirecss.nhs.uk](mailto:feedback@staffordshirecss.nhs.uk)  
Or ring **0800 030 4563** - There is also a 24 hour answer phone service

### Where can I go for further information?

The ERP Policy for South Staffordshire, which includes the criteria for each procedure, is available on the CCG websites:

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

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

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

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

## Examples of Excluded and Restricted Procedures

The list below provides an example of the procedures which can be found in the full policy document online:

### Excluded Procedures (not routinely commissioned)

- Procedures carried out for cosmetic purposes only, e.g. Breast Enlargement, Liposuction, Tattoo Removal, Botox
- Treatments for Snoring
- Reversal of Sterilisation

### Restricted Procedures (Criteria applies)

- Treatment for a range of benign Minor Skin Lesions
- Grommets, Tonsillectomy, Adenoidectomy, Surgery for Sleep Apnoea
- Hip and Knee Replacement
- Gallstones (Cholecystectomy)
- Hysterectomy for Heavy Menstrual Bleeding
- Cataracts
- Haemorrhoidectomy
- Inguinal Hernia Repair
- Back pain injections
- Excision of Ganglion
- Surgical treatment of uncomplicated varicose veins
- Carpal Tunnel Syndrome

## Excluded and Restricted Procedures (ERPs)

# A guide for patients

## Introduction

Clinical Commissioning Groups are responsible for commissioning healthcare services for their local population. These services include hospital care, community care and mental health services.

In any health care system there are financial limits set on what is available and on what people can expect. CCGs are required to achieve financial balance; they have a complex task in balancing this with individuals' rights to health care.

As a consequence treatments, services and medicines are prioritised against the competing needs of the population and priority is given to those which provide the greatest health gain to patients (clinical effectiveness), those which represent good value for money (cost effectiveness) and where the CCG has the resources available to invest in said services or treatments (affordability).

## What are Excluded and Restricted Procedures (ERPs)?

Excluded and Restricted Procedures (ERPs) are evidence based treatments that are not clinically effective for everyone, and can only be offered when specific clinical criteria are met.

## How does this work locally?

A clinical priorities group (Clinical Priorities Advisory Group) has been set up across Staffordshire, made up of local GPs, patient representatives and clinical professionals, and they have agreed a list of procedures and treatments where:

- there is little or no evidence the procedure is effective
- the procedure is only effective in certain circumstances
- the procedure is for cosmetic, rather than clinical reasons

A list of these procedures is included in the ***Excluded and Restricted Procedures Policy***, which sets out the criteria that must be met before the procedure or treatment can be carried out.

Your GP or Consultant will use this to make decisions on whether to make a referral or provide the treatment.

## If I meet the criteria, what happens next?

If your GP feels you meet the criteria within the policy they will refer you to a hospital of your choice for treatment.

The GP may also refer you to see a Consultant for a clinical opinion or to discuss other treatment options.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What if I don't meet the criteria but there are exceptional circumstances?

The policy clearly states that if your GP or Consultant considers your circumstances to be exceptional then they can submit an application for funding via the Individual Funding Request (IFR) process.

Your GP or Consultant can inform you more about the IFR process and will be able to complete the required documents. Alternatively you will be able to find more information about IFR process by visiting the website below:

[www.sesandspccg.nhs.uk/news-and-information/individual-funding-requests-ifr](http://www.sesandspccg.nhs.uk/news-and-information/individual-funding-requests-ifr)

### Is this about saving money?

This policy covers all procedures where there is evidence that the intervention needs to be targeted to deliver the greatest health benefit for the patient. They also ensure that the health service is offering treatments in line with the latest evidence.

### What if my condition gets worse?

If your condition gets worse you need to go back to your GP for further assessment.