Policy for Procedures of Limited Clinical Value
What does this policy mean for you?
(And why your doctor has to observe it)

Some routine treatments are now described as ‘Procedures of Limited Clinical Value’ (PLCV).

These are procedures which national experts have suggested have only limited or temporary benefit, and which are not felt to be necessary to maintain good health. This means they need to be considered on a case by case basis and meet strict criteria before they can be provided on the NHS. (See examples overleaf).

NHS Funds: Meeting Increased Demand for Services

The Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in Nottinghamshire County and Nottingham City 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.

With thanks to the Nottingham Plain Language Group for their input into this leaflet.
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What This Means for You

This may mean that your doctor is not able to offer you a certain treatment because it is not funded on the local NHS.

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 that are procedures of limited clinical value currently not funded or are restricted.

- Complimentary therapies i.e. Hypnosis, Reiki, Aromatherapy – Not Funded
- Acupuncture – for non-specific low back pain only – Restricted
- Grommets, tonsillectomy, adenoidectomy, surgery for sleep apnoea – Restricted
- Surgery for snoring – Not Funded
- Hysterectomy for heavy menstrual bleeding – Restricted
- Cataracts – Restricted
- Circumcision – Restricted
- Haemorrhoidectomy – Restricted
- Inguinal hernia repair – Restricted
- Test for confirming Irritable Bowel Syndrome in adults – Restricted
- Back surgery and injections – Restricted
- Surgery for Dupuytrens, Removal of Ganglion, and Joint Injections - Restricted

For a full list of all treatments and applicable exclusions and criteria, please refer to the Commissioning policy covering Procedures of Limited Clinical Value on your CCG website (see overleaf).

Please note that this policy does not apply to cosmetic treatments and procedures; they are covered by a separate policy – please see your CCG website for further information.

The above treatments are not a blanket ban. The CCGs recognise there will be exceptional, individual or clinical circumstances when funding for these treatments may be appropriate.

Please refer to the CCGs Individual Funding request (IFR) Policy, further details of...
which can be found on the following website:-

Applications for individual funding 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?

Decisions are based on strict medical criteria and so are usually clear-cut. If you are not happy with the decision, you can ask your doctor to apply again with more medical information. The decision is based on medical evidence, so if you submit new evidence your case will be re-examined.

The Patient Experience and PALS Teams can offer help and support and can also provide you with a copy of the Commissioning Policy for Procedures of Limited Clinical Value (PLCV). Please see the contact details of the Patient Experience Teams below:

Patient Experience & PALS Team - North of the County **0800 0283693** – Option 1

Patient Experience & PALS Team - South of the County **0800 0283693** – Option 2

Patient Experience & PALS Team - Nottingham City – **0800 183 9456**

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 Nottingham City CCG
www.nottinghamcity.nhs.uk

NHS Mansfield and Ashfield CCG
www.mansfieldandashfieldccg.nhs.uk

NHS Newark and Sherwood CCG
www.newarkandsherwoodccg.nhs.uk

NHS Nottingham North and East CCG
www.nottinghamnorthandeastccg.nhs.uk

NHS Nottingham West CCG
www.nottinghamwestccg.nhs.uk

NHS Rushcliffe CCG
www.rushcliffeccg.nhs.uk

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