

WHAT IF MY REQUEST FOR FUNDING IS TURNED DOWN?

If your request for treatment funding is refused by the IFR Panel, the referring clinician can appeal the decision on your behalf. We are **unable to accept appeals directly from patients**, although letters in support can accompany a formal appeal.

Please note an Appeal Panel may not change the decision of the Triage or IFR Panel, but must consider whether the decision reached:

- Followed policy and procedures
- Took into account and weighed all the relevant information available at the time
- Was reasonable and in line with the evidence
- Did not take into account any irrelevant information

FURTHER RIGHT OF APPEAL

A formal appeal can be sent to:-

Keith Fowler, Head of Corporate Affairs, Bromley CCG, 1st Floor, Beckenham Beacon, 379 Croydon Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 3QL

The Appeals process does not affect a patient's statutory rights to raise their concerns through the NHS Complaints procedure. The complaints procedure will investigate the way in which the funding decision was reached. For example, whether there was proper consultation and advice taken in making the decision. However, where a decision has been taken properly and reasonably, the complaints procedure cannot result in a change of decision.

MORE INFORMATION

You can find out more about Individual Funding Requests By contacting

**Russell Warrior
Local Commissioner - IFR
Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group
1st Floor, Beckenham Beacon
379 Croydon Road
Beckenham
Kent BR3 3QL**



or email

**Telephone 01689 866539
russell.warrior@nhs.net**

INFORMATION REGARDING

INDIVIDUAL FUNDING

REQUESTS (IFRs)

EXPLICIT CONSENT

The NHS clinician applying for your funding will need to ensure that they have received your explicit consent, before forwarding an application. This is to ensure that Bromley CCG can legally and fairly handle your information and that you have a reasonable idea about the IFR process.

CCG Clinical Chair: Dr Andrew Parson
Chief Officer: Dr Angela Bhan

DIFFICULT CHOICES HOW WE DECIDE

Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group (Bromley CCG) looks after the healthcare needs of people in Bromley. This covers emergency and planned care received from health professionals in hospitals and in the community.

We have agreements with a large number of health care organizations to provide various treatments. However, there are occasions where an individual patient's needs cannot be met through the usual arrangements.

Bromley CCG, along with organisations in the South London, have jointly developed a Policy for dealing with requests for such treatments. This is known as the Individual Funding Requests Policy (IFR Policy). The CCGs will use the Individual Funding Request process to consider applications made on behalf of individuals whose circumstances make them an exception to the usual commissioning process.

There will always be competing calls for limited resources, which requires a clearly defined and co-ordinated process to ensure that the resources are used in an equitable and effective way. By developing a joint Policy across South London, this ensures that clear, consistent and fair procedures are in place which correspond to those in other local organisations. This Policy is based on principles, pledges and rights outlined in the NHS Constitution.

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU WANT A TREATMENT THAT IS NOT ALREADY FUNDED BY THE NHS

If your NHS GP or hospital Consultant believes you could benefit from a treatment that is not already routinely commissioned, they can apply on your behalf for individual funding, via the IFR process. Please note that applications for funding can only be accepted if supported by an NHS GP or Consultant with appropriate qualifications. NHS Bromley is unable to accept requests for funding directly from patients. Each case is reviewed individually by the Individual Funding Requests Panel (IFR) Panel.

There is an agreed South East London Treatment Access Policy, which outlines eligibility criteria for specific procedures and the IFR Panel will refer to this for guidance when assessing requests. Once a request for funding has been received and assessed as ready to go through to the next stage in the process, it will be initially considered by a triage group of the IFR Panel. This triage group comprises a clinical and commissioning representative. At this stage, they will decide whether to fund, to refer back for further information, not to fund or forward onto a full meeting of the IFR Panel.

The applicant and patient will be notified of the triage group's decision and if they are not happy with the result, their referring clinician can lodge an appeal. Details of this process and who to contact are detailed overleaf.

WHO ARE THE MEMBERS OF THE INDIVIDUAL FUNDING REQUESTS PANEL?

If the request is moved onto the next stage of the process, your case will be considered at a full IFR Panel meeting. It is important to note that members of this Panel will include:-

A Consultant in Public Health, a local GP, a pharmacist or other professional CCG staff and an independent lay person.

In order for funding to be agreed under this process, there must be some **unusual or unique** clinical factor about you as the patient that suggests that you are:

Significantly different to the general population of patients with the condition in question

AND

Likely to gain significantly more benefit from the intervention than might be expected from the average patient with the same condition.

The Panel will not take into account a patient's social circumstances when considering such applications.

All information disclosed will be treated in strict confidence and you will be kept fully informed about the progress of your request. You will be asked for written consent in order to process the application via Bromley CCG.

