

Clinical Effectiveness: Your referrer must demonstrate the effectiveness of the treatment or operation.

Cost Effectiveness: The potential benefits of the proposed treatment must be the most cost effective option that meets the clinical need

Equity: There must be an exceptional clinical reason why you need to receive the treatment over and above other patients with a similar condition for whom treatment is not available.

Impact of refusal: What would happen if treatment was denied, what alternative could be offered.

Sometimes the Exceptional funding Committee requests further information from the clinician who made the initial referral and a case can be deferred until it has been provided.

NHS Wiltshire will, in most circumstances, send you a copy of the letter we send to your referring clinician with the Committee's decision, explaining the reasons for that decision.

What can I do if my case does not get approved?

The clinician who referred the case can appeal within 28 days of receiving the decision of the Committee. They must state the grounds for the appeal in writing.

If new and relevant information about a case is presented, the case will be reviewed as a new case, not an appeal.

A full copy of the Clinical Priorities Policy is available at:
<http://www.wiltshire.nhs.uk/Public/Publications-policies/Corporate.htm>

What other support is there?

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) is here to advise and support patients, their families and carers, provide information on NHS services and listen to your suggestions, as well as answering any queries or sorting out any concerns you may have about the care we provide.

They can be contacted on; 0800 389 7671

Exceptional Funding

A guide for patients

What is exceptional funding?

Exceptional funding is NHS funding for operations, drugs and other health care that is not normally funded by NHS Wiltshire.

NHS Wiltshire has a responsibility to provide efficient and effective services that meet the needs of the local population.

To do this, we must carefully prioritise the use of funds. The highest priority for funding will be given to those treatments of proven benefit in meeting the health needs of the local population.

On very rare occasions we may commission care that is not routinely available to the population. NHS Wiltshire will consider individual cases on their own merits through the exceptional funding system. Examples of occasions when this could happen include:

- The person (or patient) is expected to benefit significantly more than would be usual for patients with a similar condition

- The patient is significantly different to the general population of patients with the condition in question

These are described as "exceptional" Circumstances

How can I apply for exceptional funding?

Only your general practitioner (GP) or Consultant can apply for exceptional funding if they feel that you are significantly different to the general population of patients with the condition in question.

Your GP or Consultant would need to complete the exceptional funding application form on our website <http://www.wiltshire.nhs.uk> and send it to Exceptional Funding – NHS Wiltshire.

They will need to state the reasons NHS Wiltshire should make an exception to existing policies.

They will be asked to indicate that you have consented to disclosure of personal information and/or medical records relevant to your case.

What happens once you have received my request?

All complete and appropriate applications are presented to the Exceptional Committee.

The membership of the Committee includes health professionals, GP's, a Senior Commissioning Manager of NHS Wiltshire and an Independent Lay Member. The Committee is chaired by the Medical Director and Director of Nursing for NHS Wiltshire.

The Committee meets every calendar month and will make a collective decision by using the following criteria:

Clinical Need: Your referrer must provide evidence for this when supporting your case, using clinical judgement and evidence.