

Individual Funding Requests – information for patients

What are Individual Funding Requests (IFRs)

Your Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has to make difficult decisions about which treatments it can afford, and in some instances your clinician may wish to seek one that is not routinely provided. This is called an Individual Funding Request and must be based on *either*:

Rarity: A very rare medical condition and for which the CCG has no policy.
OR

Exceptionality: Clinically significantly different circumstance to other patients and where you are more likely to benefit than normally expected.

- Personal and social issues cannot be considered
- The fact that a treatment is likely to be effective is not, in itself, exceptional

The IFR process

- A weekly Triage Group reviews applications to check whether they are appropriate for consideration by the IFR panel.
- The monthly IFR panel includes specialists trained in the evaluation of clinical evidence and decides on funding.
- A letter will be sent approximately 6 days after each, telling you the outcome.

Appeal

- If the application is declined and you and/or your doctor thinks the IFR panel breached the proper process, you have the right to appeal.
- Appeals can be made within one calendar month of the outcome letter. Once an appeal is acknowledged, you and your doctor have 20 days to provide further information.
- If you are unhappy after making a formal appeal, you can refer the matter to the NHS Complaints team on 0300 0424244.

The IFR process in your area is managed by NEL Commissioning Support Unit. For more information please contact the following Team:

IFR Team – NEL CSU
Wharf House, Medway Wharf Road
Tonbridge TN9 1RE
Tel: 01732 375214/5256 Email: ifr.southeast@nhs.net