

Procedures of Limited Clinical Effectiveness

Back Pain

Spinal cord stimulation for neuropathic pain

Back Surgery

Discectomy for Lumbar Disc Prolapse (Elective surgery)
Epidural Injections for Lumbar Back Pain
Therapeutic Facet Joint Injections
Thermal Radiofrequency Denervation

Cosmetic

Minor Skin Lesions (Treatment of)
Surgery (Aesthetic)
Varicose Veins

Dental

Apicectomy
Dental Implants
Minor Oral Surgery for Retained Roots
(TMJ) Dysfunction
Wisdom Teeth

Ear Nose and Throat

(Adenoidectomy) Tonsillectomy
Bone Anchored Hearing Aids (Unilateral)
Cochlear Implants
Grommets (Ventilation Tubes)
Surgery for Snoring
Surgical Treatment of Chronic Sinusitis

Genitourinary Medicine

Circumcision
Reversal of Sterilisation
Varicocoele

Gynaecology

Bartholin's cysts
Caesarean Section for Non Clinical Reasons
Dilatation & Curettage (Menstrual Bleeding)
Hysterectomy for Heavy Menstrual Bleeding

Joint

Autologous Chondrocyte Implantation (ACI)
Carpal Tunnel Syndrome
Ganglion (Excision of Ganglia)
Dupuytren's Contracture
Knee washout (Knee Osteoarthritis)
Trigger Finger

Massage

Manual Lymphatic Drainage (MLD)

ME

Treatment of ME/ Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Skin

Hyperhidrosis

Alternative Therapies

A limited list will be supported including patients with cancer.



NHS

North Central London

Procedures of Limited Clinical Effectiveness (PoLCE)

A guide for patients

Some treatments are now described as 'Procedures of Limited Clinical Effectiveness', and need to be considered on a case by case basis before they can be provided on the NHS.

This leaflet tells you what happens if your GP or consultant thinks that you might benefit



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What are PoLCEs?

PoLCE stands for "Procedures of Limited Clinical Effectiveness". These are treatments that are not clinically effective for everyone, and can only be offered when specific clinical criteria are met.

A full list of procedures of limited clinical effectiveness are listed on the back of this leaflet.

Why do POLCEs need approval?

The NHS North Central London PoLCE policy corresponds to the legal duties set out in the Secretary of State's Directions to Primary Care Trusts, the NHS Constitution and a range of guidance.

As a patient:

- You have the right to drugs and treatments that have been recommended by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence for use in the NHS, if your doctor says they are clinically appropriate for you
- You have the right to expect local decisions on funding of other drugs and treatments to be made based on rational consideration of the evidence.

How is approval applied for?

If your clinician (usually a GP or consultant) does refer you, they will make an application through an 'Individual Funding Request'. Approval will depend on certain clinical conditions being met, as stipulated within the NHS North Central London PoLCE policy.

Your clinician will be informed of the outcome and, if approved, they will refer you to a treatment provider in the normal way. If funding is not granted, the reasons will be explained to you.

Applications can only be made through your clinician.

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 we will re-examine your case.

What do I do if I want further information?

NHS North Central London's PoLCE policy, which includes the criteria for each procedure, is available on NHS North Central London's website at www.ncl.nhs.uk under publications.

POLCE approval process

The PoLCE approval process is designed to provide a rapid response. Once NHS North Central London receives the application for approval it will reply to GPs with an answer within five working days.



For more information there are leaflets available at this surgery. Alternatively visit us at www.ncl.nhs.uk/publications.aspx.

Email any queries to ncl.ifr@nhs.net or call PoLCE/ IFR enquiries on 0203 317 3003