

Getting the best outcomes for your condition **Applying a consistent, appropriate approach across South** **Yorkshire and Bassetlaw for GP referrals**

Patient Information Leaflet to accompany the South Yorkshire and **Bassetlaw Commissioning for Outcomes Policy (January 2018)**

We want to ensure you are getting the best clinical outcome for your condition. For some conditions, we know that moving directly to surgery does not always give you the maximum benefit.

People often imagine that surgery is the only or best route, to take and actually there is a lot that can and importantly, should be done, before surgery is considered.

We have been working together with our partners working across South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw (Barnsley, Bassetlaw Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) to develop a common South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Commissioning for Outcomes Policy.

This Commissioning for Outcomes Policy is based upon national guidance provided by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and this brings together a number of existing policies under one policy document and introduces a number of additional policies.

Your own doctor and consultants will be able to refer to the guidance within the policy and apply it consistently for everyone across Barnsley, getting the best clinical outcomes for local people.

That's not to say it's a one size fits all approach – your GP will discuss what realistic benefits you can get from different treatments and you'll decide together what could work best for you. This information should form part of that conversation.

There are a range of conditions which NICE says that surgery is of limited clinical value and that there are other things than can and should be tried before surgery should be considered. This list of things are often called clinical thresholds.

What is a clinical threshold?

Clinical thresholds are a set of criteria that must be met before some procedures are considered. The threshold may be such that medication would deal with the problem.

What is a procedure of limited clinical value? (Sometimes also referred to as procedures that require Prior Approval)

Procedures of limited clinical value are procedures which medical experts have suggested have only limited or temporary benefit and which are not felt to be necessary to maintain good health.

Who decides what the best treatment is for your condition?

By using a combination of the evidence provided by national clinical thresholds and procedures of limited clinical value, Barnsley CCG is able to choose the best treatment for the health problems of the population of Barnsley.

Surgery should be a last resort for a number of conditions and should not take place before considering and trying other non-surgical, reasonable options.

Your GP will look for alternatives to surgery for certain procedures where NICE has said there are better alternatives and where clinical thresholds apply.

You will discuss the best options for you with your GP.

What procedures are covered in the policy?

The South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Commissioning for Outcomes Policy brings together existing policies under one policy document and also introduces a number of additional policies, the procedures within these policies are as follows:

Procedures that require Prior Approval

- Grommets for Otitis Media with Effusion in Children
- Grommets in Adults
- Tonsillectomy for Adults and Children
- Varicose Veins

Clinical Thresholds

- Management of Benign Skin Lesions
- Hysterectomy & Hysteroscopy for the management of heavy menstrual bleeding
- Surgical repair of Hernias
- Management of Gall Bladder Disease
- Hip Replacement for Osteoarthritis
- Common Hand conditions- Dupuytren's disease
- Carpel Tunnel Syndrome Surgery
- Knee Replacement for Osteoarthritis
- Common Hand conditions- Trigger Finger
- Common Hand conditions- Ganglions
- Male Circumcision
- Cataract surgery
- Treatment of Benign Perianal Skin Lesions in Secondary Care
- Haemorrhoidectomy
- Surgery for Ingrowing Toenails
- Hallux Valgus Surgery
- Meibomian Cyst/Chalazion
- Upper Eyelid Blepharoplasty
- Arthroscopic Subacromial Decompression of the Shoulder (ASAD)

Procedures not routinely commissioned

- Vasectomy under General Anaesthetic
- Spinal Joint Injection
 - (i) Therapeutic substance into spinal facet or sacroiliac joints
 - (ii) Spinal injection as a diagnostic tool
- Acupuncture (except for those conditions which are NICE approved)

How do I find out more about the criteria?

A full list of the criteria and the policy is available on the Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group website: <http://www.barnsleyccg.nhs.uk/strategies-policies-and-plans.htm> or from your GP.

What does this mean for Barnsley people?

All Barnsley GPs will follow this policy from 1st February 2018. As a clinical commissioning group, made up of Barnsley GPs and nurses, we think it is the best way to ensure that local NHS funds are spent on the things that will bring greatest overall health benefit to local people.

The procedures listed in the policy will only be considered if specific evidence based criteria and criteria that have been determined in advance are met; these are the clinical thresholds for treatment, as set out in the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Commissioning for Outcomes Policy.

This means that patients who attend their GP's for one of the procedures listed in the above policy will either; meet the criteria and be referred for the procedure, or, fail to meet the criteria but the clinical threshold will prompt the GP to explore other non-surgical methods of treatment, which will result in the same outcome for the patient.

In some circumstances, GPs, Consultants or NHS clinicians may think that individuals have exceptional clinical circumstances and may benefit from a treatment which is not routinely provided. Requests for such treatments must be made through an Individual Funding Request (IFR) by the clinician. This request will then be considered and approved or rejected by an independent panel.

How can you raise a concern/complaint about this policy?

Information regarding how to raise concerns or make a complaint to Barnsley CCG can be found at: <http://www.barnsleyccg.nhs.uk/about-us/feedback-and-enquiries.htm>

Alternatively you can:

Telephone: 01226 433716

Email: safehaven.riskmanagement@nhs.net

Write to: Quality Team, NHS Barnsley CCG, Hillder House, 49 – 51 Gawber Road
Barnsley, S75 2PY

Please be assured that your details will remain confidential and only be shared with relevant staff in order to address your concerns.

For further advice you can also contact Healthwatch Barnsley on 01226 320106 or www.healthwatchbarnsley.co.uk

If you would like this information in a different format please call 01226 433716 or email barnccg.comms@nhs.net

Please note that this patient information leaflet is based upon a previous version compiled in partnership with the Barnsley Patient Council relating to the Barnsley Clinical Thresholds Policy (also referred to as getting the best outcome for your condition) that was adopted from 1st April 2017.

The Barnsley Clinical Thresholds Policy will be superseded by the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Commissioning for Outcomes policy

Version 2 – January 2018