

Patient information sheet

Procedures of limited clinical value and clinical thresholds

How do we choose the best treatment for your health problems?

By using a combination of the evidence provided by national **clinical thresholds** and **procedures of limited clinical value** Rotherham CCG is able to choose the best treatment for your health problems. This leaflet briefly explains where those ideas came from and how they are used.

What is a procedure of limited clinical value?

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

What is a clinical threshold?

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

Assessing what people in Rotherham need

Our aim is to provide both value for money alongside quality services based on the whole population of Rotherham. We aim to do this in a way that is fair so that different people with equal need have equal opportunity to access services.

What is Rotherham CCG's approach to procedures of limited clinical value?

Some treatments will only be considered if specific predetermined and evidence based criteria have been met; these are the clinical thresholds for treatment as set out in RCGG's Clinical Thresholds policy.

Examples

- Research has shown that around 80% of individuals with carpal tunnel syndrome initially respond to non-surgical treatment, especially among young people or pregnant women
- Gallstones are often seen on scans but do not cause any symptoms or only mild symptoms which can be controlled by diet.
- Research has shown that obese patients suffer significant complications following hip/knee surgery, such as joint infections and poor healing.
- Medical treatment for heavy menstrual bleeding is very successful and in many circumstances prevents the need for hysterectomy and complications of surgery.

This approach is not new. These clinical thresholds are already in place at many other CCGs.

Clinical thresholds apply to the following:

- Benign Skin Lesions
- Carpal Tunnel Surgery
- Cataract Surgery
- Cholecystectomy (Gall Bladder surgery)
- Dupuytren's Disease
- Ganglion Surgery
- Grommets
- Hernia Repair
- Hip and Knee Replacement
- Hysterectomy for Heavy Menstrual Bleeding
- Tonsillectomy
- Trigger Finger
- Varicose Vein Surgery

What are the implications for you?

This may mean that your doctor is not able to offer you a certain treatment because it would not be funded by the local NHS. Your doctor has to observe the policy because it is the policy of the local NHS, and 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.

In some circumstances, your GP, Consultant or NHS clinician may think you 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 your clinician. This request will then be considered and approved or rejected by an independent panel.

Further information in respect of the Clinical Threshold Policy can be found on the internet at: <http://www.rotherhamccg.nhs.uk/Downloads/Top%20Tips%20and%20Therapeutic%20Guidelines/Therapeutic%20guidelines/Clinical%20thresholds%20policy%20-%20updated%2024%20Nov.pdf>

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

Information regarding how to raise concerns or make a complaint to the RCCG can be found at: <http://www.rotherhamccg.nhs.uk/concerns-and-complaints.htm>

or alternatively you can telephone: 01709 302108

or email: complaints@rotherhamccg.nhs.uk

or write to: Rotherham CCG, Oak House, Moorhead Way, Rotherham, South Yorkshire S66 1YY

For further advice you can also contact Healthwatch on 0170971730