

Additional Information

If you want to speak to someone about your particular case in the strictest confidence then please contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) who will be happy to talk to you. You can contact them:

By telephone: **01502 719567**

By email on: **GYWCCG.PALS@nhs.net**

Or by post:

Complaints and PALS

HealthEast

NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney CCG

Beccles House

1 Common Lane North

Beccles

Suffolk

NR34 9BN

If you would like a copy of this publication in another format such as Braille, large print, audio cassette or in another language please contact HealthEast on Tel: **01502 718629**.

Useful contact details

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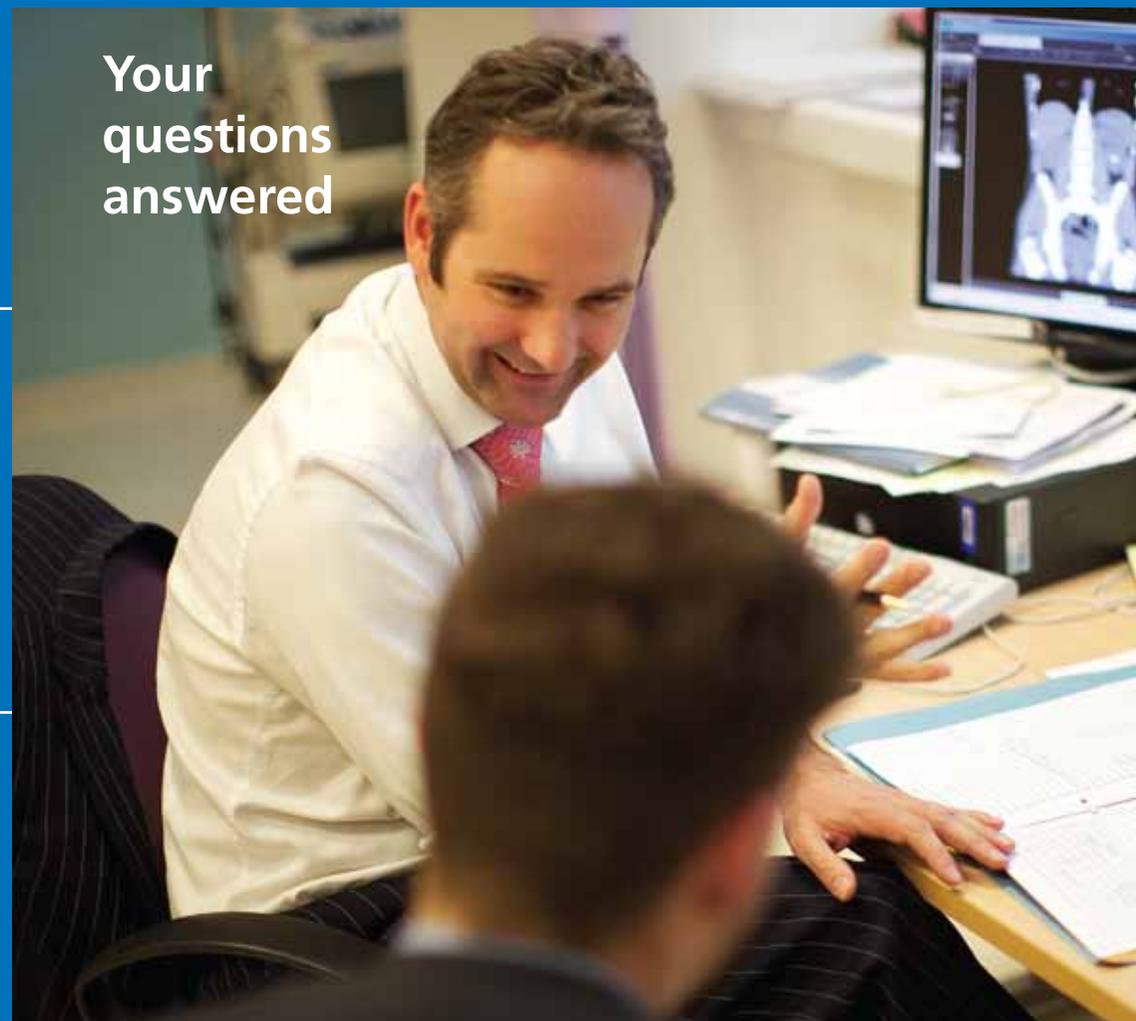


**Great Yarmouth and Waveney
Clinical Commissioning Group**

HealthEast

Your Treatment and Individual Funding

Your
questions
answered



James Paget University Hospitals **NHS**
NHS Foundation Trust

NHS
Great Yarmouth and Waveney
Clinical Commissioning Group

HealthEast

It is important for the NHS to make sure that it is only funding treatments and drugs where there is strong evidence of real clinical benefits to patients. Resources are limited, and they have to be managed to get the best health results for as many people as possible in the Great Yarmouth and Waveney area.

So NHS Great Yarmouth and Waveney CCG has a system in place to decide which treatments will be funded locally and which will not.

Your treatment

Your GP or hospital consultant may have informed you that some treatments are not normally funded locally. You have been given this leaflet because this applies to a treatment or procedure that has been discussed with you.



What are treatments that are not normally funded?

Drugs, surgery or treatments will not normally be funded if:

- there is little scientific evidence that they work
- they are largely cosmetic in nature (this means they are mainly about the way you look, or feel about your looks);
- they are less cost effective than other treatments.
- they are treatments which are subject to agreed explicit criteria which have not been met.

Explicit criteria means a set of rules which are put in place to enable doctors to make a judgement about whether your treatment should go ahead. These rules are agreed by a group of local clinicians taking into account national guidance, and best clinical evidence.

So if Great Yarmouth and Waveney Clinical Commissioning Group do not routinely fund a particular intervention won't the NHS pay for it?

Not necessarily, sometimes we will pay for a treatment, operation or drug that is not normally funded. Where we don't normally fund an intervention we also set out the exceptions which apply. That will help you to decide whether you might qualify for funding given your circumstances.

If you and your GP, or specialist considers that there are exceptional clinical circumstances in your case, you would need to show that your circumstances differ greatly from that of the majority of patients with the same medical condition.

Your doctor would also need to show that you are likely to gain more benefit than they would normally expect to see.

How do I apply for one of these exceptions?

First, we suggest you discuss it with your GP or specialist who is treating you. They will explain our policy and any grounds you might have to apply for funding.

Second, if your GP or other health professional believes you might qualify

they will write privately and in confidence to the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to request funding. You should be involved in this and get a copy of the letter.

So who decides whether to fund the intervention?

The NHS in Norfolk and Waveney have set up an Individual Treatment Panel, made up of patient representatives, GPs and Consultants in Public Health which will consider all requests against the criteria for the treatment and decide whether your circumstances justify exceptional funding being provided.

We will write to your GP (or other health professional), giving our decision and the reasons for that decision. Your GP or other health care professional will then advise you of the decision

The CCG is responsible for making decisions about treatments and is part of the Norfolk and Waveney Individual Treatment Panel.

What if I don't agree with this decision?

Talk to your GP, or specialist, and seek their opinion and advice. If, after discussing your concerns with them, you still wish to contest the decision; you can write to the Chief Executive of the CCG within four weeks of receiving the decision.