

Individual Funding Request (IFR) Policy Summary

Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care Board (the ICB) makes decisions using a prioritisation process to decide which treatments to commission and as far as possible, ensure the fair allocation of resources for the population of Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes.

The commissioning process by its very nature focuses on cohorts of patients. On an individual basis, there may be situations where a clinician believes that their patient's clinical presentation is exceptionally different to other patients with the same condition and that they should have their treatment paid for when other patients would not. In such cases, NHS clinicians can ask the ICB to fund a treatment which would not normally be provided by the NHS for that patient. The ICB regards funding for an individual patient as an equity matter. Funding a particular treatment for a patient when others from the same patient group are not routinely funded for the requested treatment has to be carefully considered and justified.

Every ICB is required to have an IFR Policy and Process in place which follows statutory requirements. NHS England has its own IFR Policy available here <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/commissioning-policy-individual-funding-requests/>. The ICB's IFR Policy reflects national policy where possible.

The ICB's IFR Policy is intended for use by those responsible for the operation of the IFR process and related decision making. It will also be a key document for NHS clinicians wishing to apply for funding under the IFR policy. The Policy has been written with plain language in mind wherever possible to support patients to engage with the policy's complex area of health.

The ICB's IFR Policy and Process sets out the principles of an IFR and how NHS clinicians can apply for funding if their patient meets the criteria. The clinician requesting the IFR should be the clinician providing the care to the patient in connection with the IFR application. If a patient is in hospital, the clinician can request an IFR directly using the ICB's secure database system. The requesting clinician is required to demonstrate on the IFR application form why their patient has clinically exceptional circumstances, the expected outcomes of the treatment and why they consider the treatment is a good use of NHS resources.

The IFR Policy and supporting documentation is available at:
www.bedfordshirelutonandmiltonkeynes.icb.nhs.uk/what-we-do/individual-funding-requests/individual-funding-request-ifr-policy-process-and-resources/