Commissioning Policy
Individual Funding Request

Homeopathy
Prior Approval Policy
Date Adopted: 1st December 2014
Version: 1516.1
Homeopathy

Policy Statement: Date of Issue: 1 December 2014
The CCG has accepted that there are some circumstances where the referring clinician and their
patient consider homeopathic management to be the appropriate means of managing their health
condition. All requests to fund such referrals will be assessed individually and evidence of clinical
effectiveness will be taken into account. Prior approval must be gained before referring.

Policy - Criteria to Access Treatment – PRIOR APPROVAL REQUIRED

Requests will be assessed for funding if the following criteria are met:

1. Severity of the Unresolved Health Issues

Where the patient has a significant condition which causes the patient significant health
problem(s) which have a severe impact on quality of life, defined as:

- Symptoms prevent the patient fulfilling routine work or educational responsibilities, or
- Symptoms prevent the patient carrying out routine domestic or carer activities
- Or where the patient is a child with significant health problems, significantly affecting
  family life.

AND

2. Treatment Options

Where the condition has not been helped by conventional treatment, OR
Where conventional treatment is contraindicated, OR
Where conventional treatment is unacceptable to the patient and no acceptable alternative is
available OR
Treatment of side effects of mainstream treatments or medications that would otherwise mean
mainstream treatment would cease e.g. cancer treatments

NOTE: Homeopathy is NOT commissioned for patients with conditions where the standard
commissioned treatment is undertaken in primary care e.g. : facial blushing/ hot flushes, low
back pain, mild/moderate cough, allergies, rhinitis (chronic or seasonal), menopausal problems,
musculoskeletal pain, insomnia/ interrupted or unsatisfactory sleeping patterns, receding gums,
hyperhidrosis.
Patients who are not eligible for treatment under this policy may be considered on an individual basis where their GP or consultant believes exceptional circumstances exist that warrant deviation from the rule of this policy.

Individual cases will be reviewed at the CCG’s Individual Funding Request Panel upon receipt of a completed application form from the patient’s GP, Consultant or Clinician. Applications cannot be considered from patients personally.

If you would like further copies of this policy or need it in another format, such as Braille or another language, please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service on 0800 073 0907 or 0117 947 4477.

This policy has been developed with the aid of the following references and collaborations:

(a) Work with the homeopathy service locally  
(b) A list of evidence for the effectiveness of homeopathic medicine for some illnesses ([http://www.facultyofhomeopathy.org/research/](http://www.facultyofhomeopathy.org/research/)); and  
(c) The fact that commissioners have to prioritise mainstream treatments for which there is strong evidence of effectiveness.

_Developed in Collaboration with Dr Elizabeth Thompson - Lead Consultant Homeopathic Physician and Honorary Senior Lecturer in Palliative Medicine, University Hospital Bristol._

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