

Healthcare Requiring Prior Approval

Patients wishing to travel abroad for treatment in the European Economic Area and seek reimbursement from the NHS will require prior approval for treatments in the following list. The rationale for inclusion of treatments in this list is provided in the annex to the list. In addition, there are services which are excluded from this policy and these are also provided in the annex to the list.

Patients seeking treatments that do not fall within the scope of the list below are still **strongly advised** to discuss their plans with their Health Board in advance to ensure that they are fully aware of their entitlement to reimbursement for the treatment from the NHS in Wales and to ascertain the level of reimbursement they would be entitled to.

Service type	List of treatments and interventions subject to Prior Approval for pre-planned treatments	Reference in the WHSSC specialised services list (see the rationale in the annex)	Reason
Artificial Limb, aids and Appliances Services	Prosthetics and complex orthotics, highly specialised equipment, highly specialised wheelchairs and cochlear implants.	<u><i>CP59 - All Wales Posture & Mobility Service</i></u> <u><i>CP35 - Cochlear Implants</i></u>	High cost items where the NHS enters into long-term contracts to manage the items over many years .
Bariatric/ Weight Loss Services	All surgery including balloon, banding by-pass, gastric sleeve	<u><i>Bariatric Surgery</i></u> <u><i>CP29</i></u>	High cost interventions based on planning with an overnight stay

Cancer Services	All inpatient cancer surgery, non-surgical treatments including radiotherapy and stereotactic radiosurgery, chemotherapy, bone marrow transplants, stem cell transplants, Brachytherapy, reconstructive post- cancer surgery and drug therapy (in line with NICE criteria).	<u>CP67 - Radiolabelled Therapy for the Treatment of Neuroendocrine Tumours</u> <u>CP01 - Low Dose Brachytherapy in the Treatment of Localised Prostate Cancer</u>	High cost interventions based on planning with an overnight stay and patient safety considerations in view of the need for long-term follow-up on a consistent basis
Cardiac Services	All cardiac surgery, invasive cardiology including trans-aortic valve replacement, heart failure treatments, implantable defibrillators	<u>CP12 Cardiac resynchronisation</u>	High cost interventions based on planning with an overnight stay and patient safety considerations in view of the need for long-term follow-up on a consistent basis
Complex Restorative Dental Services	All surgery including post-trauma, post cancer and Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy		High cost interventions based on planning with an overnight stay
Congenital Surgery Services	All surgery		High cost interventions based on planning with an overnight stay
Diagnostic testing	Pet Scans, genetic testing	<u>CP04 - Positron Emission Tomography (PET)</u>	High cost interventions based on planning with an overnight stay using highly specialised infrastructure and equipment

Fertility Services	All fertility treatments including IVF, Donor eggs and sperm, Egg, sperm and embryo storage, Surrogacy, Sperm retrieval as outlined in the WHSSC fertility policy for treatments and access criteria	<u>CP38 - Fertility Specialist Service</u>	High cost interventions based on planning with an overnight stay
Gender Identity Disorder Services	All treatments, All gender reassignment surgery	<u>CP21 - Specialised Adult Gender Identity Service</u>	High cost interventions based on planning with an overnight stay
General Surgery Services	All in-patient surgery of two nights or more, including all in-patient upper gastro-intestinal surgery		High cost interventions based on planning with an overnight stay
Gynaecology Services	All inpatient surgery		High cost interventions based on planning with an overnight stay
Haematology/bleeding disorder Services	All immune deficiency services and treatment, including major blood disorders (including hepatitis B, hepatitis C); enzyme replacement therapy		High cost interventions based on planning with an overnight stay and patient safety considerations in view of the need for long-term follow-up on a consistent basis
Hepatobiliary/Pancreatic Services	All Hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgery		High cost interventions based on planning with an overnight stay
Immunology Services	All drugs and treatments, including immunotherapy,		High cost treatments and patient safety considerations in view of the need for long term follow up on a consistent basis

Intensive Care/ High Dependency Care	All major surgery or treatment which requires pre-planned high dependency and/or intensive care as part of the treatment		High cost interventions based on planning with an overnight stay and patient safety considerations in view of the urgency of provision
Maternity Services	All Maternity Services, including Foetal medicine and foetal surgery		High cost interventions based on planning with an overnight stay and patient safety considerations in terms of continuity of care.
Maxillo-facial Surgery Services	All major inpatient surgery		High cost interventions based on planning with an overnight stay
Medicine	Long term inpatient rehabilitation		High cost interventions based on planning and patient safety considerations in view of the need for long-term follow-up on a consistent basis
Mental Health Services	Treatments and therapies for children's mental illness(including autistic spectrum disorder) and serious adult mental illness including eating disorders, substance abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, veterans post traumatic stress disorder		High cost interventions based on planning with patient safety considerations in view of the need to protect the patient and wider public health concerns.
Nationally Designated Services/ Rare Conditions	All rare conditions as listed on the NHS Specialised Services website	http://www.specialisedservices.nhs.uk/services	High cost interventions based on planning requiring highly specialised and cost-intensive medical involvement
Metabolic Disorder Services	All treatments including enzyme replacement therapy	<u>CP56 - ERT Policy</u>	High cost interventions based on planning with an overnight stay

Nephrology Services	All in-patient renal surgery and treatments. NB: All transplant services are excluded under the Directive		High cost interventions based on planning with an overnight stay
Neurosciences	All neurosurgery, including epilepsy surgery , invasive neuroradiology (stenting), Neuro rehabilitation post brain injury and all central neurological conditions	<u>CP22 - Sterotactic Radiotherapy</u>	High cost interventions based on planning with an overnight stay
Ophthalmology Services	All inpatient surgery, inpatient cataract surgery		High cost interventions based on planning with an overnight stay
Orthopaedic Services	All joint replacement surgery. All spinal surgery including both surgical and non-surgical treatment of scoliosis		High cost interventions based on planning with an overnight stay and patient safety considerations in view of the need for long-term follow-up on a consistent basis.
Pain Management	Invasive pain management techniques, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, nerve stimulators		High cost interventions based on planning with an overnight stay using highly specialised infrastructure and equipment
Palliative and End of Life Care	All Palliative care including end of life care.		High cost intervention based on length of treatment and interventions that might be required
Plastic Surgery Services	All corrective/ reconstructive surgery, all skin cancer surgery and treatments, laser therapy, hair removal	<u>CP42 - Treatment of Benign Skin Conditions</u> <u>PP45 - Abdominoplasty/Apr</u>	High cost interventions based on planning with an overnight stay using highly specialised infrastructure and equipment subject to tight criteria on entitlement

		<u>onectomy following significant weight loss</u> <u>CP44 - Body Contouring</u> <u>CP69 - Breast Surgery</u> <u>CP43 - Facial Surgery</u>	
Pre-Genetic Diagnosis Services	All genetic testing services	<u>CP57 - Genetic Testing for Inherited Cardiac Conditions</u>	Patient safety considerations in view of the need for this service to be considered as part of a wider patient care pathway.
Thoracic Services	All thoracic surgery, invasive techniques, Pulmonary Hypertension drugs, cystic fibrosis		High cost interventions based on planning with an overnight stay using highly specialised infrastructure and equipment
Transplant Services	The Directive does not apply to the allocation of and access to organs for the purpose of organ transplant		
Urology Services	All in-patient urological surgery and invasive techniques including erectile dysfunction surgery		High cost interventions based on planning with an overnight stay
Vascular services	All invasive vascular surgery, treatments including diagnostics.		High cost interventions based on planning with an overnight stay using highly specialised infrastructure and equipment

Annex: Rationale for inclusion of treatments in the prior authorisation list.

The rationale for this prior approval list has been developed in line with Article 8 of the Directive. That article allows a system of prior authorisation, but only insofar as it is necessary and proportionate to the objective to be achieved. It may not constitute a means of arbitrary discrimination or an unjustified obstacle to the free movement of patients.

The introduction to the Directive refers to a number of issues that prior authorisation may consider including¹:

- planning of services to ensure that there is sufficient and permanent access to a balanced range of high-quality hospital treatment
- a desire to control costs and to prevent, as far as possible, any wastage of financial, technical and human resources
- ensuring the safety of the patient, in a sector well known for information asymmetry,

Article 8 says that healthcare that may be subject to prior authorisation shall be limited to healthcare which:

- (a) is made subject to planning requirements relating to the object of ensuring sufficient and permanent access to a balanced range of high-quality treatment in the Member State concerned or to the wish to control costs and avoid, as far as possible, any waste of financial, technical and human resources and:
 - (i) involves overnight hospital accommodation of the patient in question for at least one night; or
 - (ii) requires use of highly specialised and cost-intensive medical infrastructure or medical equipment;
- (b) involves treatments presenting a particular risk for the patient or the population; or
- (c) is provided by a healthcare provider that, on a case-by-case basis, could give rise to serious and specific concerns relating to the quality or safety of the care, with the exception of healthcare which is subject to Union legislation ensuring a minimum level of safety and quality throughout the Union.

The schedule is based upon a review of

- the existing central commissioning arrangements for specialised commissioning for unusual or high cost interventions by the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSCC); where items from this list have been assessed as appropriate for prior authorisation the relevant WHSSC policy is referred to in column 3 (note that these references do not necessarily cover all the items in column 2);
- a full assessment of other services in relation to high cost and issues such as use of resources and patient safety.

The reason for inclusion in each case is indicated.

Policy Exclusions

The EU Directive specifically specifies some services are excluded from this policy, these include:

- services in the field of long-term care the purpose of which is to support people in need of assistance in carrying out routine, everyday tasks;
 - allocation of and access to organs for the purpose of organ transplants;
 - with the exception of Chapter IV, public vaccination programmes against infectious diseases which are exclusively aimed at protecting the health of the population on the territory of a Member State and which are subject to specific planning and implementation measures.
 - All standard aids and appliances including standard wheelchairs, which are not routinely purchased for patients but 'lent' to patients for their period of need via a community pooled resource.
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