

Policy Category:

INNF

Who usually applies for funding?

GP/Consultant



Complementary Therapy

Commissioning decision

Funding approval must be sought from the ICB via the Individual Funding Request process prior to treatment.

Complementary and Alternative Medicine is a title used to refer to a diverse group of health-related therapies and disciplines which are not considered to be a part of mainstream medical care. The therapies provided by complementary and alternative medicine practitioners may be provided alongside conventional medicine or may be viewed by their practitioners as a substitute for it.

The ICB will only fund interventions that are supported by evidence that demonstrates clinical and cost effectiveness. At this time there is insufficient high quality evidence to demonstrate the clinical and cost effectiveness of complementary and alternative medicine. Complementary and alternative medicines are therefore considered a low priority and will not be normally funded. The policy statement will be reviewed in the light of new evidence as appropriate.

Patients who are not eligible for treatment under this policy can be considered on an individual basis where GP or clinician believes there are exceptional clinical circumstances to policy.

For further information please contact glicb.ifr@nhs.net

Policy review date

December 2028

Version Control

Version No	Type of change	Date	Description of Change
1			
2	Review date	18.10.2018	Review date changed to November 2023
3	Minor word change Review date	12.12.2023	Paragraph removed regarding acupuncture, osteopathic and chiropractic techniques not normally commissioned by the ICB. Agreed by M Walkinshaw, Executive Director Review date changed to December 2028

