

# Commissioning Policy

## Bobath Therapy

### Interventions Not Normally Funded (INNF)

Date adopted: 10.06.2025

Version: 4

### Authorisation and document control

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<b>Name of sign off group:</b>	Commissioning Policy Review Group

<b>Equality and Engagement Impact Assessment</b>	
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<b>Version number</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Summary of changes</b>	<b>Author/Editor</b>	<b>Approved by</b>
1	12.10.2015			
2	15.03.2018	Policy review date changed to March 2022	IFR Manager	ECCP
3	10.03.2022	Policy review date changed to March 2025. No changes to policy required.	IFR Manager	ECCP
4	10.06.2025	Policy review date changed to June 2028. No changes to policy required. New policy template adopted.	Senior Commissioning Manager (Rehabilitation) and Clinical Lead Therapist	CPRG

## 1.0 Background

Bobath Therapy is not normally funded.

The evidence base for the effectiveness of Bobath therapy in children and adults is poor.

## 2.0 Policy statement

### Policy details

Bobath therapy is an approach in neurological rehabilitation that is applied in patient assessment and treatment (such as with adults after stroke or children with cerebral palsy). The goal of applying the Bobath concept is to promote motor learning for efficient motor control in various environments, thereby improving participation and function. This is done through specific patient handling skills to guide patients through initiation and completion of intended tasks.

The evidence of the effectiveness of this approach is poor and therefore the treatment is not usually available on the NHS, but it may be considered in exceptional circumstances. If your doctor believes you should be considered for this treatment your doctor will need to complete an Individual Funding Request application form to request funding from the ICB, and within this application will need to demonstrate why your circumstances are exceptional. The ICB will consider such applications on a case-by-case basis in order to determine whether or not the procedure would be funded on the NHS.

## 3.0 Patients who are not eligible for treatment under this policy

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 ICB'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.

## 4.0 Connected policies

None

## 5.0 References

[The effectiveness of the Bobath concept in stroke rehabilitation: what is the evidence? - PubMed](#)

[Can physiotherapy after stroke based on the Bobath concept result in improved quality of movement compared to the motor relearning programme - PubMed](#)

[Bobath Concept versus constraint-induced movement therapy to improve arm functional recovery in stroke patients: a randomized controlled trial - PubMed](#)