

Homeopathy Exceptional Funding Request

Homeopathy is not routinely commissioned.

Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board (BNSSG ICB) is responsible for making the best use of the NHS funds allocated to us to meet the health needs of our local population. The demand for services is greater than the resources available and therefore we have to prioritise the use of funds carefully. Our approach is to prioritise commissioning treatments, operations or drugs that are most effective in meeting the health needs of the population. All operations carry significant risks and where symptoms are mild or moderate it is likely that the risks outweigh the benefits. Not all conditions progress and when symptoms can be managed conservatively, that is the safest option.

Homeopathy – Plain Language Summary

Homeopathy is a complementary or alternative medicine. This means that homeopathy is different from treatments that are part of conventional Western medicine in important ways.

A central principle of Homeopathy is 'like cures like'. This means that a substance that causes certain symptoms can also help to remove those symptoms.

A second central principle is based around a process of dilution and shaking called succussion.

Practitioners believe that the more a substance is diluted in this way, the greater its power to treat symptoms.

Many homeopathic remedies consist of substances that have been diluted many times in water until there's none, or almost none, of the original substance left.

Homeopathy is used to 'treat' an extremely wide range of conditions, including physical conditions such as asthma and psychological conditions such as depression.

There has been extensive investigation of the effectiveness of homeopathy. There is no good-quality evidence that homeopathy is effective as a treatment for any health condition.

This policy has been developed with the aid of the following:

1. Mathie RT, F. J. (2015). Homeopathic Oscillocoquinum for preventing and treating influenza and influenza-like illness. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, Issue 1. Art no: CD001957.
2. Saha S, K. M. (2013). Homeopathic treatment of headaches & migraine: a meta-analysis of the randomized controlled trials. Asian Journal of Pharmaceutical and Clinical Research 6 (suppl 3), 194-199.
3. www.bnssg.ICB.nhs.uk. (2018, 08 07). Retrieved 08 08, 2018, from BNSSG ICB: <https://bnssgICB.nhs.uk/news/governing-body-approve-changes-homeopathy-funding/>
4. www.bnssg.ICB.nhs.uk. (2018, 07 05). Retrieved 08 08, 2018, from bnssg ICB: <https://bnssgICB.nhs.uk/get-involved/surveys-and-consultations/reviewing-homeopathy-services/>
5. www.england.nhs.uk. (2017, 11 30). Retrieved 08 08, 2018, from NHS England: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/sps-homeopathy.pdf>
6. www.nice.org.uk. (2008, 02). Retrieved 08 08, 2018, from NICE: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CG60/chapter/1-Guidance#non-surgical-interventions>

Due regard

In carrying out their functions, the Bristol North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Clinical Policy Review Group (CPRG) are committed to having due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). This applies to all the activities for which the ICBs are responsible, including policy development and review.

Document Control

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Governance

Commissioning policies are assessed for their likely level of impact on BNSSG ICB and the population for which it is responsible. This determines the appropriate level of sign off. The below described the approval route for each score category.

Policy Category	Approval By
Level 1	Commissioning Policy Review Group.
Level 2	Chief Medical Officer, or Chief Nursing Officer, or System Executive Group Chair
Level 3	ICB Board

OPCS Procedure codes

N/A



**Bristol, North Somerset
and South Gloucestershire**
Integrated Care Board

Support

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