

OPEN & UPRIGHT MRI PRIOR APPROVAL (PA) POLICY

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Application Form	Prior Approval Form

**OPEN & UPRIGHT MRI
PRIOR APPROVAL POLICY**

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VERSION CONTROL

Document Status:	Current policy
Version:	2425.v3

DOCUMENT CHANGE HISTORY

Version	Date	Comments
1516.v1.2	July 2017	Change CSU template to SCCG template
1516.v1.2a	June 2018	3-year review, amended template
1819.v1.3	September 2020	Rebranding from IFR to EBI. Inclusion of information re Wide Bore Scanner at Musgrove Park Hospital, 3-year review CCPF no amendments
2021.v2	July 2022	Amendment from SCCG to NHS Somerset ICB. New PALS email address
2223.v2a	February 2023	Removal of duplicate criteria and reference to BNSSG CCG
2223.v2b	February 2023	Wording change on 3.6
2223.v2c	April 2023	3-year review, no clinical changes
2223.v2d	July 2024	Logo change with amendment to website link and clinical exceptionality wording on 3.6
2425.v2e	January 2025	3-year review. Amendment to wording on wide bore scanners

Equality Impact Assessment EIA	1516.v1 November 2015
Quality Impact Assessment QIA	March 2018
Sponsoring Director:	Dr Bernie Marden
Document Reference:	2425.v3

1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES PA (PRIOR APPROVAL)

- 1.1 Funding approval must be in place prior to treating patients for this prior approval treatment

Please note: Funding approval is given where there is evidence that the treatment requested is clinically effective and the patient has the potential to benefit from the proposed treatment

- 1.2 Receiving funding approval for the specified treatment requested, DOES NOT confirm that the patient will receive treatment or surgery. The patient MUST CONSENT to receiving treatment/ surgery prior to treatment being undertaken

- 1.3 The policy does not apply to patients with suspected malignancy who should continue to be referred under the NHS '2 week wait pathway' rules for assessment and testing as appropriate

- 1.4 Patients with an elevated BMI of 30 or more MAY experience more post-surgical complications including post-surgical wound infection and should be encouraged to lose weight further prior to seeking surgery

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1198743X15007193>
(Thelwall, 2015)

- 1.5 Patients who are smokers should be referred to a smoking cessation service to reduce the risk of surgery and improve healing

- 1.6 Prior approval funding is available for one year commencing the date of approval

2 POLICY CRITERIA PRIOR APPROVAL

- 2.1 Wide Bore Scanners and Standard enclosed MRI scans are routinely commissioned when clinically appropriate for all NHS patients

- 2.2 Wide Bore Scanners are available within Somerset Foundation Trusts. Referrals should be made to Somerset Foundation Trusts in the first instance

- 2.3 Patients requiring MRIs of the lower limb can access local services

- 2.4 **Patients with Severe Unmanageable Claustrophobia requiring MRI of the head, chest or torso:**

Patients who suffer from claustrophobia where an oral prescription sedative has not been effective

N.B. flexibility in the route of sedative administration may be required in paediatric patients as oral prescription may not be appropriate

Complete a Prior Approval (PA) application form, where there is clinical evidence the Somerset ICB local provision **is not clinically appropriate for a patient** and send the form to: somicb.ebisomerset@nhs.net

2.5 Complete a Prior Approval (PA) application form and send the form to: somicb.ebisomerset@nhs.net for patients who would not fit comfortably in a wide bore or standard MRI device as determined by a Consultant Radiologist

2.6 Upright Scanning Machine

Complete a Prior Approval (PA) application form and send the form to: somicb.ebisomerset@nhs.net for patients who are unable to lie properly in a wide bore or standard MRI device due to severe pain AND there is a clear diagnostic need consistent with supported clinical pathways;

2.7 **N.B.** Somerset ICB are unable to reimburse accommodation or travel costs for patients who travel outside of the Somerset area for an open or upright MRI. Patients on qualifying benefits may be able to access support from the Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme – more details available here - <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/help-with-health-costs/healthcare-travel-costs-scheme-htcs/>

2.8 Patients who are not eligible for treatment under this policy, please refer to section 3 EVIDENCE BASED INTERVENTIONS APPLICATION PROCESS on how to apply for funding with evidence of clinical exceptionality

3 EVIDENCE BASED INTERVENTIONS APPLICATION PROCESS

3.1 Patients who are not eligible for surgery under this policy may be considered for surgery on an individual basis where the 'CLINICIAN BEST PLACED' believes exceptional circumstances exist that warrant deviation from the rule of this policy

'THE CLINICIAN BEST PLACED' is deemed to be the GP or Consultant undertaking a medical assessment and/or a diagnostic test/s to determine the health condition of the patient

3.2 Completion of a **Generic EBI Funding Application Form** must be sent to the EBI team by the 'clinician best placed' on behalf of the patient

Note. applications CANNOT be considered from patients personally

3.3 Only electronically completed EBI applications emailed to the EBI Team will be accepted

- 3.4 It is expected that clinicians will have ensured that the patient, on behalf of whom they are forwarding the funding application, has given their consent to the application and are made aware of the due process for receiving a decision on the application within the stated timescale
- 3.5 Generic EBI Funding Applications are considered against '**clinical exceptionalism**'. To eliminate discrimination for patients, social, environmental, workplace, and non-clinical personal factors CANNOT be taken into consideration.

For further information on 'clinical exceptionalism' please refer to the NHS Somerset ICB EBI webpage [Evidence Based Interventions - NHS Somerset ICB](#) and click on the section titled **Generic EBI Pathway**

- 3.6 Photographs can be forwarded with the funding application form to further support the clinical evidence provided where appropriate

4 ACCESS TO POLICY

- 4.1 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 Telephone number: 08000 851067
- 4.2 **Or write to us:** NHS Somerset ICB, Freepost RRKL-XKSC-ACSG, Yeovil, Somerset, BA22 8HR or **Email** us: somicb.pals@nhs.net

5 REFERENCES

The following sources have been considered when drafting this policy:

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- 5.1 20241210 SFT information provided on provision of wide bore scan within SFT