



Partners in improving local health

**BRIEFING NOTE:  
INDIVIDUAL FUNDING REQUEST SERVICE  
GENDER IDENTITY REFERRAL GUIDANCE**

The IFR Processing Team have recently been made aware of a change in guidance surrounding Individual Funding Requests for patients on the Gender Identity care pathway. This briefing note is intended to update both referrers and IFR Teams in understanding relevant commissioning responsibilities.

Guidance previously stated that where patient was under the care of a GI Consultants (GIC), all requests for funding, regardless of treatment were directed to the NHS England Specialised Commissioning IFR Team. Where patients had undergone the male to female or female to male transition and were discharged back to the care of the GP, commissioning responsibility regardless of treatment were directed to the CCG IFR teams.

More recent guidance has deviated from the above and amendments have been made to the responsibilities to both Specialised and CCG IFR Teams. Details of treatments and the appropriate commissioner are listed below.

**Treatments commissioned by NHS England (*if the patient is under the care of a GIC*)**

- Ongoing psychotherapy and counselling
- Hormone therapy
- Facial hair removal
- Speech therapy
- Hair removal donor site
- Surgical Treatments – M to F
  - Penectomy (removal of the penis)
  - Bilateral orchidectomy (removal of the testes)
  - Vaginoplasty (creation of the vagina)
  - Clitoroplasty/Labioplasty (creation of clitoris/labia)
- Surgical Treatments – F to M
  - Salpingo-oophorectomy (removal of ovaries and Fallopian tubes)
  - Metoidoplasty (creation of micropenis)
  - Phalloplasty (creation of penis from using skin and muscle tissue from another site)
  - Urethoplasty (creation/join-up of urethra)
  - Scrotoplasty (creation of scrotum)
  - Placement of an appropriate penile prosthesis (inflatable or malleable)
  - Placement of testicular prostheses
  - Subsequent specialist surgery

**Treatments (non-core procedures) that can be sought from CCGs (*regardless of whether the patient is under the care of a GIC*)**

- Breast augmentation
- Lipoplasty/Contouring
- Gamete storage
- Facial feminisation surgery (FFS)
  - Thyroid chondroplasty / Tracheal shave (reducing size of larynx)

- Rhinoplasty (nasal surgery)
- Facial bone reduction
- Blepharoplasty / Facelift

IFRs for non core procedures can be sought at any point of the patients care pathway and should be considered by CCGs in line with existing protocols where these are available. Applications for treatments commissioned by North East CCG should be submitted via the on-line application system <https://ifr.sotw.nhs.uk/signin>

Should referrers or CCGs require further assistance this can be accessed via the local IFR Administrator. Alternatively a copy of the full guidance document can be found using the following link <http://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/int-gend-proto.pdf>