

If you require this information in an accessible format, such as large print or Braille, or in a community language, please email gccprescribing@ggc.scot.nhs.uk



A guide to Individual Patient Treatment Requests (IPTRs)

What is this factsheet about?

You have been given this factsheet because you are either being treated in NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHS GG&C) or the doctor treating you is based in NHS GG&C and has requested a medicine for your condition that has not been recommended for use in NHS Scotland by the Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC). The SMC carries out an evaluation of the clinical and cost effectiveness of all new medicines and advises Health Boards on their use in NHS Scotland. Further information on this process and reasons why medicines might not be approved can be found at: www.scottishmedicines.org.uk and clicking the 'Public Involvement' link or via the factsheet available at www.hris.org.uk/resources/new-medicines-pdf-factsheet/. This factsheet explains what happens next.

Your doctor may believe that your individual clinical circumstances are different **and** you are more likely to benefit from a medicine than others with the same condition. If this is the case, there is a system used across NHS Scotland that your doctor may follow – the Individual Patient Treatment Request (IPTR). NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (GG&C) have adopted this process.

My doctor wants me to get a medicine that is not recommended for use within NHS Scotland. What happens next?

Your doctor will complete an IPTR form. This form will give details of why your doctor thinks you should receive the medicine. This includes an opportunity for you to contribute a statement.

Preparation, management and assessment of the request will be in line with Scottish Government guidance.

Who decides if my treatment request is accepted or rejected?

The treatment request will be considered by a panel of healthcare professionals including a senior doctor, pharmacist and a manager within NHS GG&C.

What does this panel consider?

Your doctor will explain why he/she believes that your individual clinical circumstances are different and why you are more likely to benefit from the medicine than others with the same condition. The submission will include a description of your case as well as details of any published clinical trials or evidence that supports these points.

Do I get any say?

You have the right to submit a written statement to go with the IPTR form if you wish. However, patients or representatives should not feel under any pressure to do so and the absence of such a statement will not present a disadvantage. Such statements are not a necessary addition to the information to be considered by the panel and will not form part of the evidence. Your doctor can provide you with further details on how to do this.

How long will it take to hear about the treatment request?

The panel will consider the urgency of the request and come to a decision at the earliest opportunity. However the timescale for the decision aims to be no longer than 20 working days from receipt of the IPTR. You will be notified of the date by when the decision will be made.

How will I find out if my doctor's request has been successful?

Immediately after conclusion of the IPTR review, your doctor should be informed of the panel's decision. Your doctor will then communicate the decision to you. You can review a copy of the IPTR decision paperwork and will be given information on next steps, depending on the outcome.

My doctor's treatment request has been accepted. What happens now?

Your doctor can prescribe the medicine for you on the NHS.

My treatment request has been turned down. What happens next?

Your doctor will explain the reasons why the request has been turned down. He/she will then discuss any alternative treatment options with you. You and your doctor may also consider whether you believe there are grounds for an appeal. If you both believe this to be the case, your doctor can appeal the decision.

What happens at the appeal stage?

The Appeal panel will have a different membership but its decision will be based the same criteria as before i.e. why your circumstances are different and why you are more likely to respond to the medicine. Unless both these criteria are met the treatment cannot be prescribed. You will be given the option of active participation in the appeal panel hearing. The appeal hearing will take place within 20 working days from when the appeal was received; the decision is generally made on the day and will be communicated to you by your doctor.

If there are no grounds for appeal or if the appeal is unsuccessful, you may wish to consider the option of paying for the medicine privately. This should only apply when all NHS options have been exhausted. Your doctor should be able to discuss the feasibility of this with you.

If national advice on the medicine should change to a position where it is accepted for use in NHS Scotland, your doctor will be able to prescribe the medicine. Also, if your clinical condition and circumstances change, then your doctor may suggest a new IPTR application.

Can I complain about the way my IPTR was handled?

The IPTR process is set up to ensure fairness and consistency and ensure that patients are fully informed and engaged in the process. If you have concern about the way your IPTR was handled, please refer this to your doctor or to the NHS GG&C email: ggcprescribing@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

However, if you remain dissatisfied, as with any of aspect of care you receive from NHSGGC, you have the right to make a formal complaint about the way your IPTR was handled. For further information on the complaints procedure or further advice on how to make a complaint, phone (0141) 201 4500 or email: complaints@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

Where can I get further information/advice?

Your doctor should be able to provide further help and advice. If you still have questions about the IPTR process (original or appeal), please contact us by email: ggcprescribing@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

You should also be able to get additional support from agencies outside of the NHS. Citizen's Advice Scotland has a Patient Advice and Support Service (PASS). Call (0141) 775 3220 or find further details at: www.cas.org.uk or www.patientadvicescotland.org.uk