

Thames Valley Priorities Committee Commissioning Policy Statement

Policy No. TVPC67

NHS England Specialised Commissioning Services

Recommendation made by
the Priorities Committee:

September 2017/ Updated January 2021¹

Date of issue:

March 2021

Specialised services support people with a range of rare and complex conditions. They often involve treatments provided to patients with rare cancers, genetic disorders or complex medical or surgical conditions. They are provided in relatively few hospitals, accessed by comparatively small numbers of patients. These services tend to be located in specialised hospital trusts that can recruit a team of staff with the appropriate expertise and enable them to develop their skills.

The ambition of NHS England is to bring equity and excellence to the provision of specialised care and treatment. The Specialised Commissioning directorate of NHS England takes a consistent approach to central planning of specialised services which is delivered locally. It works to raise the standards of care for all patients receiving treatment for rare and specialised conditions, ensuring that patients have equal access to services regardless of their location.

Thames Valley CCGs **do not fund** specialised services, treatments or interventions that are directly commissioned by NHS England Specialised Commissioning, whether they are provided by a specialised a non-specialised provider.

Commissioned activity will be determined in accordance with the [Manual for Prescribed Specialised Services](#) and resources available from the [National Programmes of Care](#).

NOTES:

- Potentially exceptional circumstances may be considered by a patient's CCG where there is evidence of significant health status impairment (e.g. inability to perform activities of daily living) and there is evidence that the intervention sought would improve the individual's health status.
- This policy will be reviewed in the light of new evidence or new national guidance, e.g. from NICE.
- Thames Valley clinical policies can be viewed at <http://www.fundingrequests.ccsu.nhs.uk/>

¹ Minor amendment only; additional links added.