

NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Policy Statement:

Commissioning medicines for individuals aged 16-17 years old treated in adult services

Background:

NHS England has a commissioning policy for treatments for individuals aged less than 18 years old. The policy states that NHSE will commission treatments where specific commissioning conditions within a National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Technology Appraisal (TA) or NHS England clinical policy are met. The same policy and principles are not in place for medicines currently funded by the Integrated Care Board (ICB).

The purpose of this policy statement is to:

- Ensure that the same commissioning principles are applied to medicines for individuals aged 16-17 years old regardless of the commissioning body.
- Provide individuals aged 16-17 years old who are being treated in adult services with access to treatments routinely available to individuals aged 18 years and above, once certain conditions as outlined in this policy are met.

NICE review medicines in line with their marketing authorisation and therefore if the medicine only has a licence for use in adults, NICE is unable to make recommendations for the paediatric population. This policy will address the ICB's position on commissioning medicines for individuals aged 16-17 years old who are being treated in adult services where a medicine is approved for use by a NICE TA for the treatment of adults but not children.

This policy only applies to patients diagnosed within an adult service, or following formally agreed transition into the adult service via a commissioned transition service.

Implementation:

The ICB will fund requests for medicines for individuals aged 16-17 years old who are being treated in adult services that are approved in adults by a NICE TA when one of the following criteria are met, and all the conditions listed apply:

1. The medicine has a licence for use in individuals aged 16-17 years old and the indication for use falls within that specified in the licence
or
2. The medicine is listed in the BNF for Children with a recommended dosage schedule relevant to individuals aged 16-17 years old
or
3. The individual aged 16-17 years old is post pubescent

In addition to the above criteria, ALL the following conditions must apply:

1. The individual meets all the NICE TA criteria for the proposed medicine/indication in adults
2. The individual does not meet any exclusion criteria for the medicine/indication in question
3. The use of the medicine has been discussed at a specialised multidisciplinary team (MDT) meeting, which includes the necessary experience and expertise to deal with this cohort of patients
4. An ICB BlueTeq form is submitted

Each provider organisation treating an individual with a medicine approved under this policy will be required to assure itself that its internal governance arrangements have been completed before the medicine is prescribed.

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When considering the most appropriate option for treating 16-17 year olds within an adult service, a medicine with a marketing authorisation for use in children should be used in preference to a medicine that is not licensed for use in children. The use of a medicine off-label must go through internal Trust approval systems to ensure the request is clinically safe and approved by the Trust's governance process, e.g. Drugs and Therapeutics Committee.

Patients who do not meet the criteria and conditions set out in this policy can have their case considered through the [Individual Funding Request \(IFR\) process](#) if they are considered to be clinically exceptional.

This policy has been developed to support the treatment of 16-17 year olds within the most appropriate service for the individual and will be reviewed regularly. Any questions regarding the treatment of patients who sit outside of this policy should be directed to the ICB Central Medicines Management team in the first instance at Mop-enquiries@cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk, who will liaise with the ICB High Cost Drugs Group as appropriate.

The NHS Cheshire and Merseyside process for dealing with requests to treat 16-17 year old individuals within an adult service is described in appendix 1.

The application form in appendix 2 should be used to apply for any drugs and/or indications that are not listed in the approved drugs and indications (see appendix 1).

The list of approved drugs and indications is attached in appendix 3.

References:

NHS England. [Commissioning Medicines for Children in Specialised Services](#), 23 March 2024.

Appendix 1

NHS Cheshire and Merseyside process for dealing with requests for medicines for individuals aged 16-17 years old treated in adult services

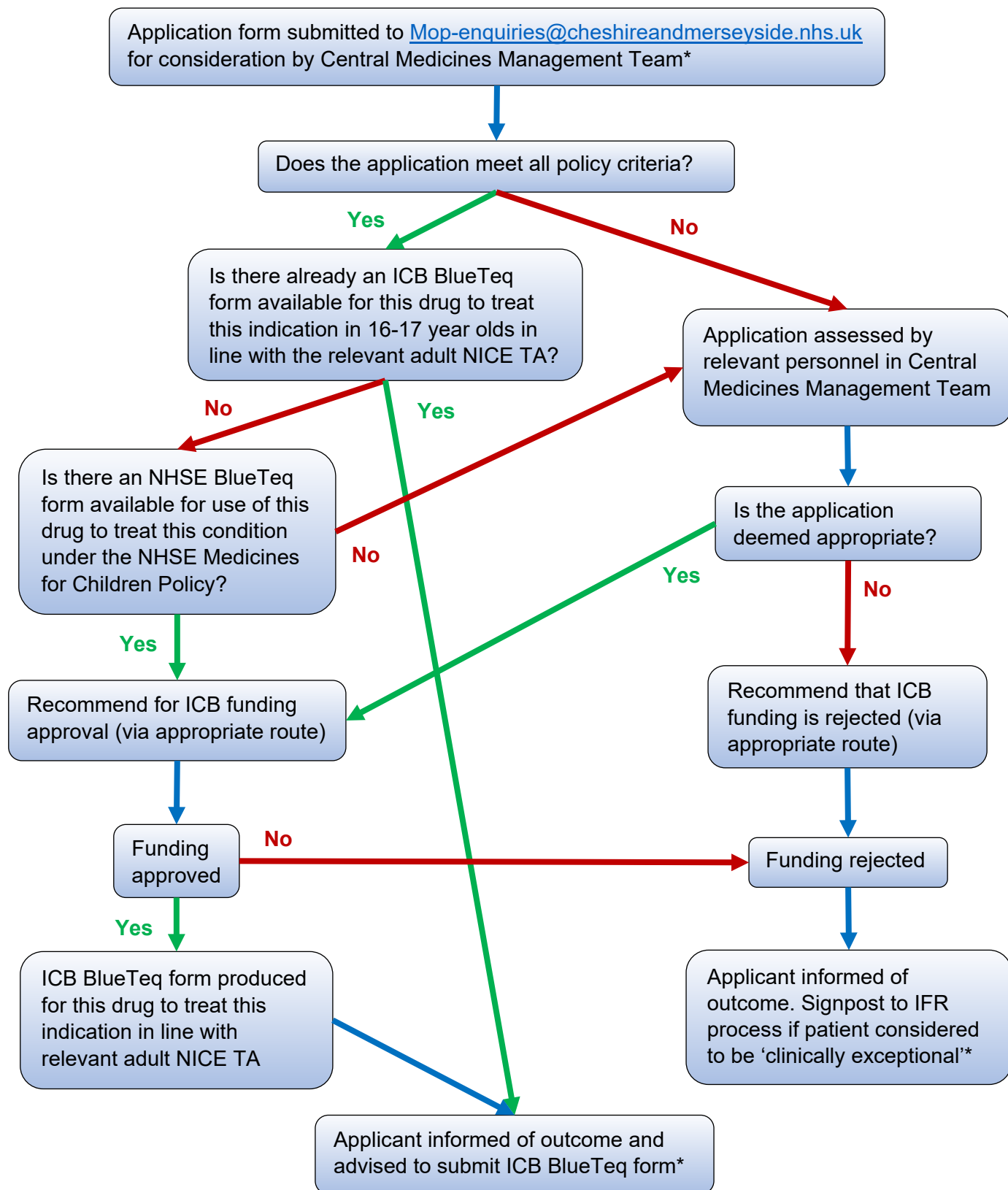
Approved drugs and indications

A list of drugs and indications that are approved by NHS Cheshire and Merseyside for use to treat individuals aged 16-17 years olds within an adult service is available in appendix 3.

All relevant policy criteria must be met and an ICB BlueTeq form submitted for all individuals treated under this policy.

For any drugs and/or indications that are not included on this list, an application form (appendix 2) should be submitted via email to Mop-enquiries@cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk and will follow the process for consideration of non-approved drugs and indications described below.

Non-approved drugs and indications



*Agreed internal process will be followed

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Appendix 2

NHS Cheshire and Merseyside application form: Request for non-approved medicines and indications for individuals aged 16-17 years old treated in adult services

You can complete the form online here: <https://forms.office.com/e/sUX8jdjXrs>

Trust name	Click or tap here to enter text.
Patient identifier (initials only)	Click or tap here to enter text.
Age and date of birth	Click or tap here to enter text.
Why is the 16-17 year old individual being treated within an adult service?	Click or tap here to enter text.
Drug being requested (include drug name, formulation and strength)	Click or tap here to enter text.
Clinical indication (including whether diagnosed in paediatric or adult service)	Click or tap here to enter text.
Dosage regimen (include dose, route, frequency and duration)	Click or tap here to enter text.
Is the individual already established on treatment within a paediatric service? (provide details of paediatric service)	Click or tap here to enter text.
Does the drug have a licence for use in individuals aged 16-17 years old for the requested indication? (If not, is there a treatment option available that is licensed for use in this age group?)	Click or tap here to enter text.
Is the medicine listed in the BNF for Children with a recommended dosage schedule relevant to individuals aged 16-17 years old?	Click or tap here to enter text.
Is the individual aged 16-17 years old post pubescent?	Click or tap here to enter text.
Relevant NICE TA for use of this drug/indication in adults	Click or tap here to enter text.

Does the individual meet all the NICE TA criteria for the proposed medicine/indication in adults, with the exception of their age?	Click or tap here to enter text.
Does the individual have any exclusion criteria for the medicine/indication in question?	Click or tap here to enter text.
Has the use of the drug been discussed at a specialised multidisciplinary team (MDT) meeting, which includes the necessary experience and expertise to deal with the 16-17 year old cohort of patients?	Click or tap here to enter text.
If off-label, has this request been through internal Trust approval systems to ensure the request is clinically safe and approved by the Trust's governance process? (Provide details, e.g. Drugs and Therapeutics Committee, date approved)	Click or tap here to enter text.
How many 16-17 year old individuals do you anticipate treating with this drug/indication per financial year?	Click or tap here to enter text.
Any other relevant information to support request	Click or tap here to enter text.
Requesting clinician (name and job title)	Click or tap here to enter text.

Completed by

Name Date

Job title

Organisational sponsor (e.g. Drugs and Therapeutics Committee Chair)

Name Date

Job title

ICB funding decision:

ICB funding approved	Yes / No
Rationale for decision	Click or tap here to enter text.
Further comments	Click or tap here to enter text.

Decision approved by

Name Date

Job title

Appendix 3

Approved drugs for treating individuals aged 16-17 years old treated in adult services

The drugs and indications listed below are commissioned as 'prior approval' in accordance with the NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Policy Statement: Commissioning medicines for individuals aged 16-17 years old treated in adult services. BlueTeq forms are available and should be completed for each patient.

Speciality	Drug	Indication	NICE TA
Dermatology	Dupilumab	Atopic dermatitis	TA534
	Omalizumab	Chronic spontaneous urticaria	TA339
Gastroenterology	Adalimumab	Crohn's disease	TA187
	Adalimumab	Ulcerative colitis	TA329
	Infliximab*	Crohn's disease	TA187
	Infliximab*	Ulcerative colitis	TA329
Neurology	Fremanezumab	Migraine prevention	TA764

*Includes off-label use of subcutaneous infliximab

The application form in appendix 2 of the Policy Statement should be used to apply for any drugs and/or indications that are not listed.