

Appendix 15 - NHSE Commissioning Medicines for Children in Specialised Services

This is an extract from the NHSE document outlining circumstances in which children can be prescribed medication that NICE has approved only for adults. Full document available on –

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/commissioning-medicines-children-specialised-services.pdf>

6. Criteria for Commissioning

NHS England will fund requests for medicines for children within a specialised service that are approved in adults by a NICE TA or NHS England clinical commissioning policy when **one** of the three following criteria are met and all of the conditions listed apply:

1. The medicine has a license for use in children and both the indication for use and the age of the child fall within those specified in the adult license

or

2. The medicine is listed in the BNF for Children with a recommended dosage schedule relative to the age of the child

or

3. The child is post pubescent.

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

1. The patient meets all the NICE TA/NHS England clinical commissioning policy criteria for the proposed medicine/indication.
2. The patient does not meet any exclusion criteria for the medicine/indication in question.
3. The use of the drug has been discussed at a multidisciplinary team (MDT) meeting which must include at least two consultants in the subspecialty with active and credible expertise in the relevant field of whom at least one must be a consultant paediatrician. The MDT should include a paediatric pharmacist and other professional groups appropriate to the disease area.
4. The patient has been registered via the NHS England prior approval web based system.

In all cases the use of the medicine when 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.* by its Drugs and Therapeutics Committee.

It should be noted that where a medicine has an MA for use in children it should be considered prior to a funding request for a product that is not licensed for use in children.