The use of any intervention assessed by NICE under their IPG programme is a LOW PRIORITY and not normally funded by the Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire, Berkshire East, Berkshire West and Buckinghamshire PCTs unless:

- the intervention has been categorised by NICE as ‘safe and efficacious’ and the clinical governance arrangements have been described as ‘Normal’;

AND

- funding has been agreed by commissioners through the funding route detailed below.

Funding route

PCTs have no statutory duty to fund the use of interventions assessed under NICE’s IPG programme. Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire, Berkshire East, Berkshire West and Buckinghamshire PCTs will only consider funding of interventions categorised by NICE IPGs as requiring ‘Normal’ clinical governance arrangements (see categorisation below). To obtain funding, a business case must be submitted to the PCT in advance of the intervention’s use OR an evidence review must be taken through the Priorities Committee. This requirement applies even if the intervention is included in Tariff.

Regardless of equivalent cost, the PCT will not commission the use of interventions that are less effective or pose a greater risk to patients than standard interventions.

Trusts wishing to undertake research associated with the use of IPG interventions must apply for research funds in the usual way.

Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire, Berkshire East, Berkshire West and Buckinghamshire PCTs will not usually accept business case applications for IPGs categorised other than ‘Normal’.

NICE IPGs take account of safety and efficacy but do not consider the cost or cost-effectiveness of a procedure. NICE IPGs indicate the circumstances in which an intervention might be used and provide a process as to how it might be used (which must be followed if the IPG is implemented). However, NICE IPGs do not make recommendations as to whether the intervention should be used.

Interventional Procedure Guidance Categorisation

NICE IPGs assess the evidence of safety and efficacy and categorise the clinical governance arrangements required if an intervention is to be used, as follows:

1. Normal
2. Special
3. Other
4. Research only
5. Do not use

NOTES:
1. Exceptional circumstances may be considered where there is evidence of significant health impairment and there is also evidence of the intervention improving health status.
2. This policy will be reviewed in the light of new evidence or guidance from NICE.