

Birmingham, Solihull and the Black
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Dear Colleague

Re: Requests to Support Excess Treatment Costs (ETCs) Associated with Clinical Trials

The NHS England Birmingham, Solihull and Black Country Area Team has received several enquiries from Provider Trusts to support the Excess Treatment Costs (ETCs) associated with clinical trials.

You will be aware that whilst the NHS may have historically included an element for the support of ETCs in the baseline allocation to acute service providers, I am sure you will appreciate that in the current financial climate, the primary call for resources is to support clinical service provision for established service priorities. We are therefore currently unable to routinely identify any uncommitted resources which could be used to support requests for ETCs outside of the annual prioritisation process which considers all competing priorities. Where funding of ETCs has been discussed between the trust and the commissioner, NHS England will not fund ETCs without an express written agreement from NHS England (or previous legacy commissioning body) confirming acceptance of explicit costs.

Work is underway in NHS England to develop a policy which will detail how requests for ETCs will be assessed in order to identify those clinical trials with sufficient merit to qualify for any identified additional research support that might be made available.

Please ensure your clinical teams are aware of this position. We would recommend that clinicians contact the local senate member of the NHS England Clinical Reference Group for their speciality if they have concerns to ensure a coordinated response.

Kind regards



Rachel O'Connor
Head of Specialised Commissioning
Birmingham, Solihull and The Black Country NHS England