

CLINICAL POLICY ADVISORY GROUP (CPAG)

NHS Derby and Derbyshire ICB Position Statement **Specialist Opinion Referrals to Secondary Care under** **DDICB Clinical Policies**

Statement

NHS Derby and Derbyshire ICB has deemed that where a patient's condition requires further diagnostic evaluation, specialist input, or treatment planning beyond the scope of general practice, it is entirely appropriate for the General Practice to refer the patient to secondary care for a Specialist Opinion.

General Practice contains highly trained clinicians who provide essential and comprehensive care within the community. However, they are not specialists in all areas of medicine.

It is important to provide all relevant clinical information to support any referral to secondary care. The secondary care clinician can then make an informed decision on the procedure in line with DDICB Clinical Policies.

A specialist opinion on the suitability of or access to a particular procedure should not be refused or delayed due to funding arrangements, as applying for funding is the responsibility of the treating specialist¹.

This approach ensures that patients receive timely and expert care, supports safe clinical decision-making, and reinforces the collaborative relationship between primary and secondary care providers.

The ICB's commissioning intentions will be reviewed periodically. This is to ensure affordability against other services commissioned by the ICB.

1. https://icm.derbyshiremedicinesmanagement.nhs.uk/assets/Clinical-Policies/Governance_Policies/IFR/IFR_Policy.pdf