

Craven, Harrogate & Rural District PCT
Hambleton and Richmondshire PCT
Scarborough, Whitby and Ryedale PCT
Selby and York PCT

Information on how we decide whether you need treatment

Your local Primary Care Trust (PCT) is in charge of the budget for the National Health Service in this area, and allocates resources to pay for range of measures from surgery in hospital to GP consultations and ambulance transport.

Inevitably, this is a huge and complex task, and all NHS organisations have to work within the resources allocated to them by the Department of Health.

Primary Care Trusts must ensure they examine how every pound in their budget is spent to get the best value for money. Providing care and treatment when people are ill, as well as ensuring national targets on treatments, drug prescribing and waiting times are met, is a priority.

Your local Primary Care Trust works closely with your family doctor and with local hospitals and other facilities. They also look carefully at referral patterns and to ensure NHS treatment being offered in North Yorkshire is broadly similar to that available elsewhere in England.

Guidelines have been produced by your Primary Care Trust to help doctors decide in certain cases whether a patient's symptoms are sufficient for them to need referring on to a hospital consultant or another health professional in a different setting. These guidelines set out in some detail the protocol doctors are asked to follow.

In some cases, minor procedures are not deemed by the Primary Care Trust to be clinically necessary because they will do not improve the quality of life of a particular patient. It is the view of the Primary Care Trust that NHS resources are better spent in other areas where a clear patient benefit can be achieved.

If the circumstances of your particular case are affected by the guidelines your doctor will inform you of this and will briefly explain the policy of the Primary Care Trust and how it applies to your condition. Please feel free to ask questions during the consultation to make sure you understand what is being said.

If you have any questions or concerns afterwards, or need clarification of the Primary Care Trust policy, please contact your local Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS).

For Selby & York PCT please contact the PALS service on 0800 587 0856

If PALS cannot assist in resolving your concern they will also be able to explain how the matter can be raised directly through the PCT's complaints procedure.