

FAQs for residents

Q: What is the EBICS policy?

A: Just because we can do something doesn't always mean we should. Some treatments and procedures may not help in all circumstances. As a result, NHS organisations across the country have developed criteria for accessing many common tests, treatments and procedures, to make sure that:

- residents receive the right treatment, at the right time, fairly and consistently (to reduce unwarranted variation)
- treatments with no, or very limited, evidence of benefits to health are not used

In North Central London, these criteria are listed in this document called the Evidence Based Interventions and Clinical Standards' policy (or EBICS for short). The EBICS policy explains when around 110 tests, treatments and procedures can and can't be used by clinicians to treat North Central London residents. The EBICS document was previously named 'Procedures of Limited Clinical Effectiveness (PoLCE)'.

Q: Is this a new policy?

A: No, this is an update to the policy that was last reissued in September 2019. It is a policy for all North Central London residents, ensuring that there is equitable provision across the five boroughs.

Q: How have the EBICS policies been developed?

A: Policies included in the EBICS policy have undergone a rigorous review process that is clinically led. Individual clinical policies included in the EBICS document are developed and reviewed by a group of doctors, commissioners and community members from across North Central London. For more information on the policy development process, please refer to page 7 of the EBICS policy.

Q: What is the Evidence-Based Interventions Programme?

A: The Evidence-Based Interventions (EBI) Programme is a clinical initiative led by the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (AoMRC) in partnership with NHS England and NHS Improvement, as well as NHS Clinical Commissioners and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence.

The aim of the EBI programme is to improve the quality of care being offered to residents by reducing unnecessary interventions and preventing avoidable harm. In addition, by only offering interventions on the NHS that are evidence-based and appropriate, the programme frees up resources that can be put to use elsewhere in the NHS. This is more important than ever to help support the NHS – and particularly elective care services – recover from the impact of COVID-19.

Q: What age does this policy apply to?

A: This policy applies to residents 18 years of age and over unless specified in body text of sections.

Q: I am on the waiting list for a procedure that is no longer offered in the new version of the policy. What does this mean for me?

A: Please liaise with your GP in the first instance if you have any questions. If you are on a waiting list, your treating clinician will be in touch with you to review the most appropriate course of treatment for your condition.