

**Clinical Commissioning
Policy Statement: National
Intravenous Immunoglobulin
(IVIG) Guidelines**

April 2013

Reference: NHSCB/B09/PS/a



NHS Commissioning Board Clinical Commissioning Policy Statement: National Intravenous Immunoglobulin (IVIG) Guidelines

First published: April 2013

**Prepared by the NHS Commissioning Board.
Immunology and Allergy CRG**

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First published April 2013
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<p>POLICY STATEMENT:</p> <p>National Intravenous Immunoglobulin (IVIg) Guidelines</p>	<p>Policy Ref: NHSCB/B09/PS/a</p>
<p>Treatment:</p>	<p>National clinical guidelines for the management of intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIg) treatment.</p>
<p>Background:</p>	<p>Immunoglobulin is a mixture of blood proteins (antibodies) that are made by the immune system. Antibodies are formed when the immune system comes into contact with foreign substances that cause infections such as viruses or bacteria. These antibodies protect us from infection.</p> <p>Immunoglobulins can be extracted from donor blood and are used to treat a number of medical conditions. It is usually given to patients as an intravenous infusion, called intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIg).</p> <p>A shortage of immunoglobulin prompted the Department of Health to develop a Demand Management Programme (DMP), with the objective of ensuring that supply is maintained, even in times of acute shortage, for the patients considered to be the highest priority because of a risk to life without treatment.</p> <p>The DMP consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical guidelines to help potential prescribers of immunoglobulin identify treatment indications for which its use is appropriate. • A demand management plan for immunoglobulin use, which recommends that trusts or strategic health authorities establish a local immunoglobulin assessment panel to approve and monitor the local prescribing of immunoglobulin. • A national immunoglobulin database to monitor immunoglobulin use to allow accurate forecasting, facilitate appropriate demand management, and provide a more accurate picture of prescribing by indication at national and local level. <p>Further information about the DMP and the clinical guidelines supporting it can be found at:</p> <p>http://www.ivig.nhs.uk/index.html</p>

Commissioning position:	The NHS Commissioning Board (NHS CB) will commission services in accordance with the current national IVIG guidelines.
Effective from:	1 April 2013
Evidence summary:	As per Immunoglobulin Guidelines
Equality impact:	The NHS CB has a duty to have regard to the need to reduce health inequalities in access to health services and health outcomes achieved as enshrined in the Health and Social Care Act 2012. The NHS CB is committed to ensuring equality of access and non-discrimination, irrespective of age, gender, disability (including learning disability), gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex (gender) or sexual orientation. In carrying out its functions, the NHS CB will have due regard to the different needs of protected equality groups, in line with the Equality Act 2010. This document is compliant with the NHS Constitution and the Human Rights Act 1998. This applies to all activities for which they are responsible, including policy development, review and implementation.
Responsible CRG:	Immunology Allergy CRG
Date approved by NHSCB Board:	March 2013
Policy review date:	April 2014