

A GUIDE TO CREATING CLINICAL POLICIES

NHS England is accountable for specialised services for the whole population of England to ensure that everyone has access to treatments and services which are effective and a good use of NHS resources. **Clinical policies** are used to determine the commissioning position on new treatments and technologies for patients or revise existing treatments and technologies. They form a critical part of NHS contracts and hold providers (hospitals, healthcare providers) to account for the treatment they deliver to patients. Clinical policies are developed via the work of the **Clinical Reference Groups (CRGs)** following a standard process called the **Clinical Policy Pipeline**, that has three phases.

Phase A Clinical Build

The **clinical build** is the first of three phases to form a national clinical commissioning policy for a directly commissioned specialised service. It concludes through a Gateway managed by the Clinical Panel where a 'Policy Proposition' is confirmed to be built from clinical evidence.

A clinician who undertakes to take the proposal through each step is identified to lead each clinical commissioning policy development.

The relevant CRG endorses that the nominated **Policy Clinical Lead** has the support of peers

The Clinical Lead forms the **Preliminary Policy Proposal (PPP)**

The **Clinical Panel** confirms that the policy proceeds and determines the required methodology for proportional to the complexity of the proposal.

An **Evidence Review** is commissioned guided by the Preliminary Policy Proposal

- What is a Clinical Policy**
- A document **endorsed by NHS England's decision making governance committees including the Board or subcommittee**, that describes the commissioning position how a particular treatment or technology within specialised services and in what circumstances people will receive the treatment, reflecting NHS England's values and principles and taking in to account stakeholder views.
 - The contents of a clinical policy are a **mandated** NHS England commissioning position and must be followed by all healthcare providers.
 - A policy is developed when there is **no relevant guidance published by NICE** (Technology Appraisal Guidance or Highly Specialised Technology Assessment). If NICE guidance is published on an existing clinical policy topic, it will either replace, or be incorporated into the policy.

Evidence Reviews can follow different routes

Evidence Review	Clinically urgent	Three paper evidence summary
	Limited Evidence Base	Public Health Evidence Review
	Complex Evidence Base	Independent Evidence Review

Working with a **Policy Working Group** the Policy Clinical Lead forms a **Policy Proposition** built from the evidence base

The **Clinical Panel** tests whether the Policy Proposition is built on the clinical evidence and whether the policy proceeds either as a **'routinely'** or **'not routinely'** commissioned proposal.

The proposal moves to the impact analysis Phase B.

