

**Policy Category:**

**INNF**

**Who usually applies for funding?**

**GP/Consultant**

**Complementary Therapy**

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| **Commissioning decision**  | **Funding approval must be sought from the CCG via the Individual Funding Request process prior to treatment.** |

Complementary and Alternative Medicine is a title used to refer to a diverse group of health-related therapies and disciplines which are not considered to be a part of mainstream medical care. The therapies provided by complementary and alternative medicine practitioners may be provided alongside conventional medicine or may be viewed by their practitioners as a substitute for it.

The CCG will only fund interventions that are supported by evidence that demonstrates clinical and cost effectiveness. At this time there is insufficient high quality evidence to demonstrate the clinical and cost effectiveness of complementary and alternative medicine. Complementary and alternative medicines are therefore considered a low priority and will not be normally funded. The policy statement will be reviewed in the light of new evidence as appropriate.

Acupuncture and osteopathic and chiropractic techniques are used by mainstream NHS health care providers for the early management of non-specific low back pain as per NICE Clinical Guideline 88 (2009). However, the CCG will not normally commission these services additionally.

Patients who are not eligible for treatment under this policy can be considered on an individual basis where GP or clinician believes there are exceptional clinical circumstances to policy.

Link to application form – Individual Funding Request application form

For further information please contact glccg.ifr@nhs.net

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| Policy review date | November 2023 |

**Version Control**

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| **Version No** | **Type of change** | **Date**  | **Description of Change** |
| 1 |  |  |  |
| 2 | Date  | 18.10.2018 | Review date changed to November 2023 |