

Reporting Committee	JCC - All Wales Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) Panel
Chaired by	Elizabeth Abderrahim
Lead Executive Director	Director of Nursing and Quality Assurance
Date of last meeting	WHSSC IPFR Panel meeting 19 June 2024

Summary of key matters considered by the Committee and any related decisions made.

The following table demonstrates the number of requests considered at the Chair's Action Panel meetings and All Wales IPFR Panel meetings during this reporting period.

	Number of Requests discussed as Chair's Actions	Number of Requests discussed by WHSSC IPFR Panel
May	1	18
June	6	15

Key risks and issues/matters of concern and any mitigating actions

The number of PET scans still coming through IPFR

Concerns have been raised by the IPFR Panel regarding the number of applications for PET scans still going the IPFR Panel despite recent changes in the PET policy CP50a. These are having an adverse impact on the ability of the Panel to consider other applications for funding within suitably robust timeframes. Gatekeeper advice is already sought for each PET request and it would only be in exceptional circumstances that the Panel would find it appropriate to disregard that advice. Present arrangements therefore create a situation where an already time-pushed Panel is even more time constricted. The Panel is consequently of the view that PET applications should no longer be dealt with through the IPFR process but instead be Gate-kept and dealt with through routine commissioning procedures on the basis that the gatekeeper process is capable of providing the necessary assurance that funding is being allocated appropriately.

Commissioning Policies

A number of cases reviewed by the panel identified changes that needed to be made to a current commissioning policies. These will be escalated to the Policy Group for consideration.

The Implementation of the Revised All Wales IPFR Policy

Confirmation of the adoption of the revised All Wales IPFR Policy [the Policy] was received from Welsh Government on 17 April 2024 and the Panel has been

operating under its new Terms of Reference [the terms] since 1 June 2024. Under these new terms the quoracy requirement is that four of the seven Health Boards are represented with the terms specifying that a Board's nominated representative should be the Board's own IPFR Chair or a nominated clinical deputy. Work is continuing to confirm the representatives of each Health Board and to identify two additional members and two lay members as provided for under the new terms. Whilst this work is continuing the Panel has been meeting as scheduled and meetings have been quorate. A letter dated 5th June has been received from the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer for Welsh Government asking for a pause to the implementation of the policy following a letter received from the Chair of the IPFR Quality Assurance Group. A meeting will be set up with the Chairs of the Health Board IPFR panels to address the issues of concern raised.

- As identified above.

Matters referred to other Committees

- None

Confirmed Minutes for each of the meetings are available on request.

Date of next meeting	17 July 2024
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