

Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) and Clinical Ecology/Environmental Medicine Exceptional Funding Request

Investigation of Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) and/or treatment with Clinical Ecology/Environmental Medicine is not routinely funded by the Commissioner. (Investigation in primary care and referral to local commissioned service for assessment and exclusion of treatable conditions is routinely available).

Before consideration of referral for management in secondary care, please review advice on the Remedy website (www.remedy.bnssgcccq.nhs.uk/) or consider use of advice and guidance services where available.

Multiple Chemical Sensitivity and Ecology/Environmental Medicine– Plain Language Summary

“Clinical Ecology” relies on the concept that multiple symptoms are caused by hypersensitivity to minute amounts of common foods and chemicals. MCS is also known as environmental illness, total allergy syndrome and idiopathic environmental intolerance (IEI).

Treatment usually emphasizes avoidance of suspect substances with lifestyle changes e.g. diet modification and to avoid synthetic items. Clinical ecologists often advise many patients to take vitamin, mineral, and other supplements. They can also offer the specific treatment of Enzyme Potentiated Desensitisation (EPD), which allegedly boosts the immune response against minute doses of allergens. To date, no clinical studies have been conducted which compare EPD to standard allergy immunotherapy. (Multiple Chemical Sensitivity)

This policy has been developed with the aid of the following references:

1. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (2020), Evidence Search: The impact of MCS on social people's social and occupational functioning; a systematic review of qualitative research studies. www.evidence.nhs.uk
2. John Hopkins Medicine (2021): Multiple Chemical Sensitivity. www.hopkinsmedicine.org

Connected Policies

N/A

Due regard

In carrying out their functions, the Bristol North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Clinical Policy Review Group (CPRG) are committed to having due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), and NHSE Evidence-Based Interventions (EBI). This applies to all the activities for which the ICB is responsible, including policy development and review.

Document Control

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OPCS Procedure codes

Support

If you would like further copies of this policy or need it in another format, such as Braille or another language, please contact the Customer Services Team on: **0117 900 2655** or **0800 073 0907** or email them on BNSSG.customerservice@nhs.net.