

Reporting Committee	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	IPFR Panel meeting 04 September 2024

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

The last two AW IPFR Panel meetings, which were scheduled for 21 August and 4 September, had to be cancelled as it was not possible to achieve quoracy with non-attendance being recorded for 6 HBs.

This was due to a number of factors, including:

- Unavailability of Health Board representatives and their deputies
- Still no nominated clinical HB Representative
- Still no nominated clinical HB deputies

This is despite chasers to the HBs and the implementation of the new ToRs which only require us to have clinical representation from 4 of the 7 HBs to proceed.

This will subsequently cause a backlog of requests, some of which may lapse their specified urgencies and will fall outside of the 6 week turnaround stipulated within the policy.

All urgent requests have been considered by a Chairs Action Panel which have also proved difficult to convene due to availability of members.

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
July	4	25
August	6	4

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

Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) Quality Assurance (QA) Group Audit Report – July 2024

One of the roles of this group is to consider an anonymised random sample of IPFR reports (one from each IPFR panel in Wales) in relation to their completeness, timeliness and efficiency of communication in line with the NHS Wales IPFR policy process. During this meeting the group considered one application from each panel considered between **April and June 2024**.

The report highlighted that all but two criteria were met for the IPFR assessed from NWJCC. The group agreed with the opinion of the panel in that the submitting healthcare professional, a physiotherapist, had provided a good example of a well completed form. The group commented positively on the quality of the panel discussion as recorded in the decision record and the decision rationale. The letters to the clinician and to the patient were sent outside of the five-day deadline albeit by only two days.

Urgency was met in 93% of cases considered by JCC in the period between April and June. This is an increase of 24% from the previous quarter and similar to that recorded for the same quarter in 2023.

The number of PET scans still coming through IPFR

Concerns have again been raised by the IPFR Panel regarding the significant number of applications for PET scans still coming through the IPFR Panel, despite recent increases in the permitted indications 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 has asked that other options are considered for PET applications that might obviate having to come through the IPFR process. Discussions are ongoing with the PET gatekeepers to explore possible solutions. The gatekeepers are currently reluctant to have the full responsibility for decisions placed upon them.

All Wales IPFR Panel Policy & Terms of Reference

A meeting has been scheduled between members of the JCC and the Chairs of the All Wales and Health Board IPFR Panels for 18th September. The meeting has been arranged to discuss concerns over the new IPFR policy ToRs and their subsequent implementation.

It is hoped that HB representation, attendance and the interpretation and correct application of Section 9 Part A and Part B of the IPFR forms will also be addressed at this meeting to prevent any inconsistencies of practice throughout Wales.

Commissioning Policies

A number of cases reviewed by the panel identified a lack of clarity regarding the interpretation of the Commissioning Policy for Specialist Fertility Services and its

definition of an 'IVF Cycle'. The Panel felt they were unable to make decisions concerning the intervention requested until clarity is sought on the interpretation and definition of what a full IVF cycle entails. This will be escalated to the Policy Group for consideration.

Matters referred to other Committees

- None

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

Date of next meeting

18 September 2024