

One Devon Protocol for Individual Funding Requests for Dissociative Identity Disorder: Steps for the NHS Devon Individual Funding Panel to Consider an Exceptional Treatment Funding Request

Introduction Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID) is a complex and multifaceted condition, requiring a nuanced and individualized approach to assessment and care. There are no NICE guidelines in place for this condition. There is considerable overlap with other dissociative disorders, trauma related conditions and in some cases, personality disorders. This document outlines the standards and procedures NHS Devon will apply for exceptional treatment funding requests for patients diagnosed with DID, ensuring requests are rigorously assessed and aligned with clinical and funding criteria. A diagnosis of DID is not, per se, a justification for an individual funding request approval. IFRs must be based on individualised clinical rationales.

1. Clarification of Referral and Review Criteria

- **Primary Care Referrals:** Individual Funding Requests (IFRs) will **not** be considered directly from primary care providers. All cases must first be reviewed and referred by secondary care mental health services.
- **Secondary Care Responsibilities:** Before submitting an Individual Funding Request (IFR), secondary mental healthcare services must demonstrate that all relevant and appropriate assessment and treatment steps described below have been followed. If secondary care services identify a different primary diagnosis or an alternative care pathway, a funding request for external treatment will not be supported.

Secondary care services must provide evidence that they have conducted the following steps before submitting an IFR:

- **Comprehensive Assessment:** A thorough psychiatric and psychological evaluation should be completed to confirm the diagnosis, establish a clear personalised formulation and develop a tailored care plan.
- **Stabilization Prior to Specialized Interventions:** Patients must receive stabilization-focused care, addressing immediate safety concerns, social support needs, and strategies to manage dissociative symptoms, in line with the Personalised Care Framework.
- **Consideration of Evidence-Based Approaches:** Flexible treatment modalities informed by the patient's needs and formulation have been trialled (e.g., trauma-focused therapies, DBT).
- **Multidisciplinary Involvement:** Collaboration with community mental health teams (CMHTs) and psychological services to provide comprehensive care.

2. Submission of the Individual Funding Request (IFR)

When submitting an IFR, secondary care services must include:

- A clear justification for why the requested treatment is exceptional and cannot be provided within NHS Devon's standard services.
- Evidence of thorough assessment and treatment attempts within secondary care, and reasons these were insufficient.
- A proposed treatment duration and plans for patient review during the funding period under NHS Devon's care. It should be noted that the external provider's views on treatment duration will be considered but will not be definitive. responsibility for review of the clinical package and treatment plan (including appropriate preparations for endings) will remain with the secondary care service.

3. IFR Panel Considerations

The Individual Funding Panel will assess requests based on the following criteria:

- Whether the requested treatment is beyond the scope of usual NHS provisions.
- The strength of clinical evidence supporting the proposed treatment's efficacy.
- Assurance that all standard pathways and options have been exhausted.

4. Key Communication Points for Local Services

To ensure transparency, all NHS Devon services will be informed of:

- The requirement for prior secondary care assessment and treatment for DID cases.
- Criteria for submitting IFRs and responsibilities of secondary care providers.
- Updates on any adjustments to clinical practices or funding protocols.

This protocol ensures that exceptional treatment funding requests are robustly reviewed, ensuring patients receive appropriate care while adhering to NHS Devon's clinical and funding standards.