



**Northern, Eastern and Western Devon Clinical Commissioning Group
South Devon and Torbay Clinical Commissioning Group**

This commissioning decision was adopted by the above organisations on 1st April 2013, having been originally agreed by the previous commissioning organisations (NHS Devon, NHS Plymouth and Torbay Care Trust).

Peninsula Commissioning Priorities Group

Commissioning decision: high intensity focused ultrasound (HIFU) for prostate cancer

The Peninsula Commissioning Priorities Group (PCPG) has come to a decision on the use of High Intensity Focused Ultrasound (HIFU) for patients with prostate cancer. HIFU will not be commissioned as a treatment.

Rationale for the decision

There are a number of potential treatment options for prostate cancer which remains localised within the gland. NICE recommend that if radical treatment is proposed then patients are considered for either radical prostatectomy or radical radiotherapy.

HIFU is a more recent development, with a number of studies suggesting that it is effective in ablating prostate tissue. These studies also show that there are risks of complications with HIFU treatment. However, research is limited and the committee considered that the technique is still too experimental to support outside of properly constituted clinical trials, organised, governed and funded through NHS approved research bodies.

Guidance notes on exceptionality

Where the circumstances of treatment for an individual patient do not meet the criteria described above exceptional funding can be sought. The position of NICE Clinical Guideline 58 and IPG 118 was considered in reaching this decision, supplemented with a more recent search for evidence of comparative efficacy and safety with other treatment options.

Plain language summary

Prostate cancer is one of the most common cancers in men and risk increases with age. Where the disease is still contained within the prostate gland the treatments recommended by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence are either surgical removal of the gland (radical prostatectomy) or radical radiotherapy. HIFU is potential treatment which aims to destroy the gland by means of heat generated by an ultrasound probe inserted into the rectum. There is research which shows that this technique is capable of destroying prostate tissue. However the research is limited and it is not known how it compares with conventional treatments, either in terms of effectiveness or complications. The technique was considered to be at an experimental stage and that the appropriate means to evaluate it was through properly organised clinical trials.

Date of decision: 22nd June 2011