Policy Recommendation : Balloon catheter sinus dilation for chronic rhinosinusitis

Date of issue: **Presented Feb 2013 but not endorsed**

Reviewed and reissued Feb 2017

The South Central Priorities Committee has considered the evidence for balloon catheter sinus dilation for chronic rhinosinusitis. Because of a lack of evidence of benefit, NHS funding of balloon catheter sinus dilation for chronic rhinosinusitis is LOW PRIORITY. Those who represent an anaesthetic risk may be considered for this procedure under IFR arrangements “if exceptional”.

Rhinosinusitis is inflammation of the lining of the sinuses and nasal cavities. Chronic rhinosinusitis is diagnosed when symptoms persist for more than twelve weeks. Balloon catheter sinus dilation involves the endoscopic insertion of a guidewire through an ostium in the sinuses and the inflation and withdrawal of a balloon, with the aim of widening the ostium and improving drainage.

There is no reliable evidence that balloon catheter sinus dilation is clinically effective in improving patients' symptoms.

Whilst the panel recognised the considered expert advice of NICE in their recommendation the panel also had a duty to prioritise spending of a finite resource locally and made a decision which it felt gave the most equitable and effective use of investment.