

**South Central Priorities Committees
(Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire, Berkshire East, Berkshire West and
Buckinghamshire PCTs)**

**Policy Recommendation: 67 Intravenous versus oral steroids for
exacerbations of multiple sclerosis**

Date of issue: January 2012

The South Central Priorities Committee (Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire East and Berkshire West PCTs) has considered the evidence for the clinical and cost effectiveness of intravenous versus oral steroids for exacerbations of multiple sclerosis.

The committee recommends that NHS funding for the use of oral steroids for exacerbations* of multiple sclerosis should be RECOMMENDED. This is because the use of oral steroids is more cost-effective in these patients and the evidence to date does not support the superiority of either intravenous or oral delivery.

**An exacerbation of MS refers to an acute episode of MS sufficient to cause distressing symptoms or an increased limitation on activity in line with NICE Clinical Guideline 8 (p17 paragraph 1.4.1).*

NOTES:

- 1. Exceptional circumstances may be considered where there is evidence of significant health impairment and there is also evidence of the intervention improving health status.*
- 2. This policy will be reviewed in the light of new evidence or guidance from NICE.*
- 3. South Central policies can be viewed at <http://www.sph.nhs.uk/priorities/policy-statements>*