

8 September 2026

Governance Arrangements for New Interventional Procedures

Please could you provide the following information in relation to your organisation:

1. **Do you currently have a policy, standard operating procedure, framework, governance document or equivalent process that applies to the introduction, approval, oversight or monitoring of:**
 - **New interventional procedures;**
 - **Novel surgical procedures;**
 - **Innovative procedures; or**
 - **Procedures undertaken for the first time within your organisation?**

Please see attached 37965 -The Belfast Trust Policy for the Introduction of New Interventional Procedures – Attachment 1.

2. **If such a document exists, please provide:**

- **The title of the current document;**
- **A copy of the document (PDF or Word format preferred);**
- **The date on which the current version became effective, active, approved or implemented;**
- **The date of the most recent review; and**
- **The next scheduled review date (if applicable).**

Please see attached 37965 -The Belfast Trust Policy for the Introduction of New Interventional Procedures – Attachment 1.

3. **If your organisation uses a process that is not contained within a standalone policy document, please provide:**

- **A description of the governance process used;**
- **Any associated approval forms, checklists, committee terms of reference or governance documentation used to assess and approve new procedures.**

Not applicable – policy in place. Please refer to 37965 - The Belfast Trust Policy for the Introduction of New Interventional Procedures – Attachment 1

8 September 2026

4. Please indicate whether your process specifically addresses any/all of the below:

- **New surgical procedures;**
- **New interventional radiology procedures;**
- **New endoscopy procedures;**
- **New cardiology procedures;**
- **Use of new devices or implants; and**
- **Procedures undertaken as part of innovation, research, service development or service transformation.**

Please see attached 37965 - The Belfast Trust Policy for the Introduction of New Interventional Procedures – Attachment 1 for definition(s) and scope.

There is no separate process for procedures undertaken as part of innovation, research, service development or service transformation.

5. During the period 1 January 2023 to 1 January 2026, please provide:

- **The total number of applications, proposals or approvals for new, novel or innovative interventional procedures considered through this process;**
- **The number approved;**
- **The number declined or not approved;**
- **Where available, a breakdown by specialty (for example surgical specialty, interventional radiology, cardiology, endoscopy or other specialties).**

21 new interventional procedures were submitted for approval between 1st January 2023 and 1st January 2026 – all were approved.

The breakdown by specialty is as follows:

- Surgery: 12
- Endoscopy: 4
- Interventional Radiology: 2
- Neuroradiology: 1
- Cardiology: 1
- Fetal Medicine: 1

6. Please indicate:

- **Which committee, group or executive lead is responsible for approving new procedures within your organisation (title only).**

8 September 2026

During the period of time specified in the FOI request, new interventional procedures were approved via the Policy & External Guidance Committee.

7. Please state whether your organisation maintains a register, database, tracking system or log of approved new or innovative procedures and, if so, please provide:

- **A copy of the register or log (with any necessary redactions for personal information);**
- **The procedure name or title;**
- **The specialty involved;**
- **The date of approval;**
- **The current status (for example approved, piloted, implemented, suspended or withdrawn), where recorded.**

No specific register or log was in use for recording or tracking new interventional procedures.

The Trust does not maintain a register, database, tracking system or log of approved new or innovative procedures. Therefore, no register or log is held that can be provided in response to this request.

During the period specified, applications for new interventional procedures were managed through individual application files and consideration by the Policy and External Guidance Committee. Decisions were recorded within committee minutes rather than within a separate central register.

The information held by the Trust is therefore limited to the procedure title, specialty and the outcome recorded by the Committee at the time of consideration. The Trust does not maintain a central record of the current implementation status of approved procedures and therefore this information is not held.

The procedures considered by the Committee during the requested period are listed below:

August 2023

- Transnasal Endoscopy (Endoscopy) - ACTION: APPROVED
- Electrosclerotherapy Treatment of Vascular Anomalies utilising Intralesional Bleomycin & a Cliniporator Device (Interventional Radiology) - ACTION: DEFERRED
- Venous Arterialisation (Interventional Radiology) - ACTION: DEFERRED
- Transvenous Formanial Vein Embolisation for the Treatment of Cerebrospinal Fluid Venous Fistula (Neuroradiology) - ACTION: DEFERRED
- Intrauterine Transfusions (Fetal Medicine) - ACTION: APPROVED

8 September 2026

October 2023

- Electrosclerotherapy Treatment of Vascular Anomalies utilising Intralesional Bleomycin & a Cliniporator Device (Interventional Radiology) - ACTION: APPROVED
- Deep Venous Arterialisation (Interventional Radiology) - ACTION: APPROVED
- Transvenous Formanial Vein Embolisation for treatment of CVFV (Neuroradiology) - ACTION: DEFERRED

December 2023

- Transvenous Formanial Vein Embolisation for the treatment of Cerebrospinal Fluid Venous Fistula (Neuroradiology) - ACTION: APPROVED
- Tendyne (Tran Catheter Mitral Valve Replacement) (Surgery) - ACTION: APPROVED
- Branched Stented Anastomosis Frozen Elephant Trunk Repair (BSAFER) (Surgery) - ACTION: DEFERRED
- Minimally Invasive Glaucoma Surgery (Surgery) -- ACTION: APPROVED

February 2024

- Branched Stented Anastomosis Frozen Elephant Trunk Repair (Surgery) – ACTION: DEFERRED
- Anterior Right Thoracotomy Aortic Valve Replacement (Surgery) - ACTION: APPROVED
- Transurethral Laser Ablation (TULA) (Surgery) - ACTION: APPROVED

April 2024

- Endoscopic Ultrasound Guided Bile Duct Stenting with Axios Stent (Endoscopy) - ACTION: APPROVED
- Endoscopic Ultrasound Guided Gallbladder Drainage (Endoscopy) - ACTION: APPROVED
- Endoscopic Ultrasound Guided Gastroenterostomy (Endoscopy) - ACTION: APPROVED
- Branched Stented Anastomosis Frozen Elephant Trunk Repair (Surgery) - ACTION: APPROVED

September 2024

- Extra-Vascular Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (Cardiology)- ACTION: APPROVED

October 2024

- Endobronchial valve insertion to reduce lung volume in emphysema (Surgery) - ACTION: APPROVED

December 2024

- Robotic Thoracic Surgery (Surgery) - ACTION: DEFERRED

December 2024 – Extraordinary Meeting

- Robotic Assisted Thoracic Surgery (Surgery) - ACTION: APPROVED



8 September 2026

July 2025

Nuss Procedure – (Surgery) ACTION: APPROVED

Pectus Park Procedure (Surgery) - ACTION: APPROVED

Intrathoracic Rib Fixation (Surgery) - ACTION: APPROVED

Deep brain Stimulation (DBS) for movement disorders (Surgery) - ACTION:
APPROVED

November 2025 – Extraordinary Meeting

- Robotic assisted upper gastrointestinal surgery (Surgery) - ACTION:
APPROVED

8. Please indicate whether any new interventional procedures, surgical innovations or first-in-organisation procedures have been approved through an expedited, emergency or exceptional approval route (EG Chairs action) since 1 January 2023 and, if so, provide:

- The procedure name;
- The approving body; and
- The year of approval.

Two new interventional procedures were approved via an extraordinary sitting of the Policy & External Guidance committee during the period of time specified in the FOI request:

- Robotic assisted thoracic surgery: approved in 2024
- Robotic assisted upper gastrointestinal surgery: approved in 2025