
Clinical Policy Committee

Commissioning policy: Cosmetic Treatments

Cosmetic treatment is surgery or non-surgical medical treatment carried out solely to change a person's appearance to achieve what they feel is a more desirable look.

Cosmetic treatment is not routinely commissioned. An appendix to this policy lists commonly encountered cosmetic procedures which are not commissioned except under the circumstances described, but this policy applies to ALL treatment which is being carried out for cosmetic reasons.

It excludes surgery to repair and reconstruct missing or damaged tissue that has occurred through accident or illness. It may be difficult to restore normal appearance and this exclusion does not constitute an ongoing agreement to fund surgery until an ideal appearance is achieved. Under normal circumstances the reconstructive surgery is commissioned when it is part of an ongoing package of treatment for the accident or illness, including where the patient has chosen to defer taking a decision on the surgery. Once the patient has been discharged from this treatment plan further procedures are not routinely commissioned.

The revision of treatments originally carried out outside of the NHS is not routinely commissioned.

Rationale for the decision

The CCGs are responsible for ensuring that the treatments provided for the local population represent the best use of the NHS budget allocated to them for their population's health services. The CCGs have to choose how to use their funds carefully to ensure that the local population has access to the healthcare that is most needed and that people with equal need have equal opportunity to access treatments.

This inevitably means that difficult decisions need to be made. Unfortunately, some treatment that patients might wish to receive cannot be funded or is only offered under certain circumstances. This approach is consistent with other NHS organisations who buy healthcare for their local communities. Cosmetic treatments are considered a low priority for use of healthcare funds.

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. Individual cases will be reviewed by the appropriate panel of the CCG upon receipt of a completed application from the patient's GP, consultant or clinician. Applications cannot be considered from patients personally.

Please see panel policies for guidance on submitting applications for cosmetic treatments.

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Appendix 1: Commonly encountered cosmetic procedures not routinely commissioned

Treatment/procedure	Indicative OPCS procedure codes	Criteria under which treatment is funded without CCG panel approval
Breast Procedures		
Breast Asymmetry Correction	See breast augmentation/ reduction	Not commissioned
Breast Augmentation (enlargement)	B312, B315, S842	Not commissioned
Breast Lift (Mastopexy)	B313	Not commissioned
Breast Reduction	B311, B314	Not commissioned
Removal of male excess breast tissue	B311, B275	Not commissioned
Inverted Nipple Correction	B356	Not commissioned
Body Contouring Procedures		
Abdominoplasty/ Apronectomy	S021, S022, S028, S029	Not commissioned
Brachioplasty (arm reduction and lift)	S033	Not commissioned
Buttock Lift	S031	Not commissioned
Labioplasty (reduction and/or reshaping of the labia)	P055- P057	Not commissioned
Lipomodelling (surgical fat transfer)		Not commissioned
Liposuction (removal of body fat)	S621-622	Not commissioned
Testicular Prosthesis		Not commissioned
Thigh Lift (removal of excess skin and fat from the thighs)	S032	Not commissioned
Facial Procedures		
Cosmetic dental treatments		Not commissioned
Face Lift	S011-13	Not commissioned
Laser Surgery for Short Sight	C461	Not commissioned
Pinnoplasty (reshaping and/or pinning of ears)	DO33	Not commissioned
Repair of ear lobes	D062	Not commissioned

Treatment/procedure	Indicative OPCS procedure codes	Criteria under which treatment is funded without CCG panel approval
Rhinoplasty/Septorhinoplasty (reshaping of nose)	E023- E026	Immediate post trauma nasal manipulation which normally occurs two to three weeks after the trauma.
Shave excision of Rhinophyma	E094	Not commissioned
Sympathectomy for facial flushing		Not commissioned
Treatment to change appearance of face (including botulinum toxin injections /fat transfers/ fillers)		Not commissioned
Skin Procedures		
Chemical peels		Not commissioned
Dermabrasion of skin	S601	Not commissioned
Dermal fillers		Not commissioned
Hair Removal (Electrolysis or Laser Treatments)	S606, S607	Recurrent pilonidal sinus. Following hair bearing flap reconstruction.
Micropigmentation (permanent make-up)		Not commissioned
Scar Revision (reduction in the appearance of scars)	S604	As a clinically necessary part of a staged procedure to allow for improved functional outcomes.
Skin lightening		Not commissioned
Tattoo Removal		Not commissioned
Wigs, hairpieces and hair transplant/ replacement systems		<p>Hair loss is the result of previous surgery or trauma, including burns.</p> <p>Hair pieces and wigs for patients experiencing total or severe hair loss as a result of alopecia totalis, cancer treatment, previous surgery or trauma are available from local NHS Trusts through commissioned pathways.</p> <p>Wigs are available from the NHS but patients will be charged for them unless they qualify for help with charges.</p>

Appendix 2: Conditions for which specific policies are in place

Policies exist for procedures which could be undertaken for medical reasons. There are specific separate policies for these setting out the criteria or circumstances under which they are funded.

Treatment/procedure	Indicative OPCS procedure codes	Criteria under which treatment is funded without CCG panel approval
Benign skin lesion removal	S041-49, S051-59, S061-69, S078-79, S091-104, S108-119	Refer to specific policy
Blepharoplasty (eyelid surgery) and Brow Lift	C131-134, C138-139	Refer to specific policy
Botulinum Toxin injection for Blepharospasm		Refer to specific policy
Botulinum Toxin injection for Hemifacial spasm		Refer to specific policy
Breast Implants – Removal and Replacement	B303, B304	Refer to specific policy
Repair of divarication of Recti (separation of stomach muscles)	S021, T288	Refer to hernia policy
Treatment of hyperhidrosis (excessive sweating)	S352	Refer to specific policy
Treatment of Varicose Veins	L841 – L889	Refer to specific policy