

Policy Category:

INNF

Who usually applies for funding?

Consultant/GP

Acne - Pulse-dye laser treatment

Commissioning decision

Acne - Pulse-dye laser treatment is considered a low priority for funding and will only be considered in exceptional circumstances. Funding approval must be sought from the ICB via the Individual Funding Request process prior to treatment.

Policy Statement:

Not normally funded.

Rationale:

Laser treatment does not offer a permanent cure for acne. Laser treatment may temporarily reduce acne spots and redness, but the evidence is based on small studies.

Plain English Summary:

Laser or light therapy (pulses of light) can reduce the redness in a scar by targeting the blood vessels in the excess scar tissue. For some pitted scars, laser surgery (laser re-surfacing) is used to try to make the scar flatter. This involves using a laser to remove the top layers of skin, which stimulates collagen production in the deeper layers.

However, there are very few long-term studies to prove the effectiveness and safety of this therapy, and it is therefore not routinely funded by the NHS in Gloucestershire but may be considered in exceptional circumstances.

If your doctor believes you should be considered for this treatment your doctor will need to complete an Individual Funding Request application form to request funding from the ICB, and within this application will need to demonstrate why your circumstances are exceptional. The ICB will consider such applications on a case-by-case basis in order to determine whether or not the procedure would be funded on the NHS.

Evidence base:

Yung et al Comparison of PDL and combined 585/1064nm laser in acne vulgaris Dermatol Surg 2009; 35:1-7

Established local clinical practice.

For further information please contact GLICB.IFR@nhs.net

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Policy sign off:

Reviewing Body	Date of review
Effective Clinical Commissioning Policy Group	14 th April 2015

Version Control:

Version No	Type of Change	Date	Description of Change
1		14.04.2015	
2	Review date	22.03.2018	Review date changed to March 2021
3	Review date	10.06.2021	Review date changed to June 2024