

Policy Category:

INNF

Who usually applies for funding?

GP

Anal skin tags

Commissioning decision

Surgical removal of anal skin tags 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:

Perianal skin tags should not be referred as their treatment is painful and unnecessary.

If there is doubt about malignancy or other serious pathology for perianal lesions referral for diagnosis and assessment is of course sensible but treatment of skin tags will not normally be funded.

Rationale:

Removal of perianal skin tags is considered primarily a cosmetic procedure that is painful and unnecessary.

Plain English Summary:

Anal skin tags, or rectal skin tags, are common and usually harmless growths that hang off the skin around the outside of the anus. They may be mistaken for warts or piles (haemorrhoids). Anal skin tags are not a risk to health but can cause irritation.

Skin tags can be removed surgically under local anaesthetic, but this is not generally funded through the NHS in Gloucestershire as it is considered a cosmetic procedure that can be painful and is not medically necessary.

If your doctor believes that your skin tag is causing significant health related problems that could be alleviated through surgery the Integrated Care Board (ICB) may consider funding the surgery. 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:

McKinnell and Gray, 2010, QIPP Programme Right Care: Value Improvement Identifying Procedures of Low Value, Public Health Commissioning Network.

Review of local IFR policies – similar policies in Bristol, South Gloucestershire, and Bath and Northeast Somerset.

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 April 2015 31 August 2017
Integrated Governance and Quality Committee	18 June 2015

Version Control

Version No	Type of Change	Date	Description of Change
1		August 2015	Initial policy
2	Date	August 2017	Review date changed to Aug 2019
3	Date	September 2019	Review date changed to Sept 2022