

Policy Category:

CBA&PA

Who usually applies for funding?

GP/Consultant

Blepharoplasty

Commissioning decision

NHS Gloucestershire will provide funding for blepharoplasty for patients who meet the criteria defined within this policy. Funding approval for eligible patients must be sought from the NHS Gloucestershire via the Prior Approval process prior to treatment.

Policy Statement:

A referral to secondary care for the treatment of dermatochalasis will only be funded if:

The patient's temporal hooding is causing such visual field loss that they have failed the Esterman* (binocular) visual field test.

- *Impairment of vision in the relaxed, non-compensated state as determined by the Visual field test reducing visual field to 120° horizontally and/or 40° or less vertically*

OR

- *pupil is occluded by lid or skin, by more than a 30% margin*

*The Esterman test can be performed at high street optometrists or the Hospital Eye Service (HES)

In cases where there is a medical reason such as facial palsy or upper lid entropion these criteria will not apply, and the consultant can proceed in line with clinical judgement.

Rationale:

Dermatochalasis is a normal aspect of ageing. The treatment, blepharoplasty, is the second most common cosmetic procedure in the UK. For the majority of patients, the request for a blepharoplasty is cosmetic rather than functional reasons. When there is functional deficit this can be demonstrated by formal visual field testing. The official Esterman visual field test, done with both eyes open is the preferred test.

Plain English Summary:

The NHS will only offer treatment for excess upper eyelid skin when the excess skin is causing disruption to the visual field such that it impacts on the activities of daily living, such as reading or driving, and this is documented in the patient's notes.

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Evidence base:

NHS Modernisation Agency - Information for commissioners of plastic surgery

Other ICB policies – including Bristol, South Gloucestershire, Bath and Northeast Somerset, Solihull, West Suffolk.

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

Date of publication	11/04/2016
Policy review date	June 2025

Policy sign off

Reviewing Body	Date of review
Effective Clinical Commissioning Policy Group	22/12/2015

Version Control

Version No	Type of Change	Date	Description of Change
2	Minor changes	22/04/22	Objective definition of hooding drawn from the measurements of the Esterman test. Minor change ratified by Executive Directors M Walkingshaw & M Andrews-Evans 13.7.22. Review date changed to June 2025
	Review date	09/06/22	