

Body contouring procedures

Commissioning decision

Body contouring procedures are 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:

The following body contouring procedures are considered a low priority for funding, and will only be funded on an exceptional basis:

- liposuction
- other skin excision for contour, eg, buttock lift, thigh lift and arm lift (Brachioplasty)

Rationale:

Cosmetic surgery is a low priority for NHS funding and will not generally be funded by the ICB.

Plain English Summary:

Liposuction is a type of cosmetic surgery used to remove unwanted body fat. The operation is also known as liposculpture or suction-assisted lipectomy.

Liposuction is carried out on areas of the body where deposits of fat tend to collect, such as the buttocks, hips, thighs and tummy. The procedure is generally used to improve appearance rather than treat health conditions.

As liposuction is usually used to improve your appearance rather than your health, it is not normally available on the NHS

Body contouring surgery procedures involve the removal of excess fat or skin from the area being treated, the most common procedures of this type are the buttock lift, thigh lift and arm lift. A body contouring is usually used to improve your appearance rather than your health, it is not normally available on the NHS.

Evidence base:

Information for commissioners of Plastic Surgery - referrals and guidelines in Plastic Surgery Modernisation Agency (*Action on Plastic Surgery*) (2005)

<http://www.bapras.org.uk/docs/default-source/commissioning-and-policy/rewrite-for-2017--final-version.pdf?sfvrsn=4>

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

Policy Category:

INNF

Who usually applies for funding?

GP

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Policy sign off:

Reviewing Body	Date of review
Effective Clinical Commissioning Policy Group	14 th April 2015
Integrated Governance and Quality Committee	18 th June 2015

Version Control:

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2	Review date: Link added	December 2019	Review date changed to Jan 2023: Link inserted into evidence base.
3	Review date only	21.03.2023	Policy review date changed to March 2026