

Policy Category:

CBA&PA

Who usually applies for funding?

GP/Consultant



Breast augmentation and insertion of breast implants (non-cancer related indications and treatments)

Commissioning decision	The ICB will provide funding for breast augmentation and insertion of breast implants for patients who meet the criteria defined within this policy. Funding approval for eligible patients must be sought from the ICB via the Prior Approval process prior to treatment.
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Policy Statement:

Insertion of breast implants, unilaterally or bilaterally, is commissioned if one of the following indications applies:

- Reconstructive surgery following major trauma to the breast before or after development
- Congenital amastia (total absence of breast tissue).

Insertion of breast implants is not otherwise commissioned.

Note: This policy does not apply to gender reassignment or surgery following breast cancer.

Rationale:

Breast augmentation for cosmetic reasons is a low priority for NHS funding and will not generally be funded by the ICB.

Plain English Summary:

Breast implant surgery – also called breast augmentation or enlargement – is the most common type of cosmetic surgery carried out in the UK. Generally, breast implants used for purely cosmetic reasons are not available on the NHS and will need to be paid for privately.

In Gloucestershire non-cancer related breast augmentation surgery will only be funded if there is a need to reconstruct the breast after a major injury, or when a patient has a total absence of breast tissue caused by a congenital defect (known as congenital amastia).

If your doctor believes that you meet the criteria set out in this policy, they can submit a Prior Approval application to the ICB in order to seek funding approval for your surgery. The ICB will review your case and if we agree that the criteria have been met, we will authorise funding.

Evidence base:

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

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

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Policy review date	October 2023

Policy sign off:

Reviewing Body	Date of review
Effective Clinical Commissioning Policy Group	8 th November 2016
Integrated Governance and Quality Committee	18 th June 2015

Version Control:

Version No	Type of Change	Date	Description of Change
2	Review date & wording in Evidence Base	18.10.2018	Review date changed to Oct 2023. 'similar to local IFR policies – Bristol, South Glos, Bath & North East Somerset' removed from Evidence base.