

Developmental Asymmetry

Commissioning decision	The ICB will provide funding for surgery for breast asymmetry 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.
-------------------------------	---

Policy Statement:

Requests for operative intervention for developmental breast asymmetry will be considered when:

- There is a difference of at least two cup sizes (measured and assessed wherever possible by an expert brassiere fitter)
AND
- The problems cannot be adequately resolved with the use of a prosthesis
AND
- The patient has a BMI of ≤ 30
AND
- The patient is ≥ 18 years of age

Note: When clinically appropriate, breast reduction is the recommended approach due to better outcomes.

Rationale:

Surgical intervention to correct breast asymmetry is considered a cosmetic procedure and is a low priority for NHS funding. It will not generally be funded by the ICB unless there is significant asymmetry.

Plain English Summary:

The majority of women do not have identically sized breasts. In fact, slight asymmetry is considered the norm. Whilst the variation in size is of little concern to the majority of women, there are some for whom the size difference is so pronounced that it impacts on their body image and can affect their self-esteem. Asymmetry can be corrected through surgical interventions – either breast reduction (of the larger breast) or breast augmentation (of the smaller breast).

Generally, the NHS does not fund breast surgery (breast augmentation or breast reduction) for cosmetic reasons, and this is true in the case of breast asymmetry. In Gloucestershire the Clinical Commissioning Group will consider funding for surgery but only if you have significant asymmetry (at least 2 cup sizes).

Patients should have completed puberty before surgery is considered, and therefore surgery is not normally funded for patients under the age of 18.

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.

Policy Category:**CBA&PA****Who usually applies for funding?****GP/Consultant****Evidence base:**

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

Review of local IFR policies – Bristol, Bath and Northeast Somerset, South Gloucestershire
 – all restrict access based on similar criteria.

<http://www.bapras.org.uk/docs/default-source/commissioning-and-policy/information-for-commissioners-of-plastic-surgery-services.pdf?sfvrsn=2>

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

Date of publication	1 st August 2015
Policy review date	January 2023

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

Version No	Type of Change	Date	Description of Change
2	Review date: Link added	December 2019	Review date changed to Jan 2023: Link inserted in Evidence base.