

Facial procedures

Commissioning decision	Cosmetic facial 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.
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Policy Statement:

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

- Botulinum toxin for cosmetic reasons
- Face and brow lift (rhytidectomy)
- Pinnaplasty/otoplasty *It should be noted that there is no reliable research evidence that demonstrates that childhood bullying / teasing is resolved as a result of the correction of prominent ears.*
- Rhinoplasty *(unless objective evidence of nasal impairment through injury or growth abnormality. In these circumstances a simple Prior Approval application providing details of the impairment is acceptable, rather than a full IFR application demonstrating exceptionality)*
- Rhinophyma *(unless objective evidence of severe nasal blockage affecting breathing or recurrent infections. In these circumstances a simple Prior Approval application providing details of the impairment is acceptable, rather than a full IFR application demonstrating exceptionality).*
- Split earlobes
- Surgical treatment for male pattern baldness in males and females

Note: Blepharoplasty is covered by a separate policy.

Rationale:

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

In relation to Pinnaplasty/otoplasty it should be noted that there is no reliable research evidence that demonstrates that childhood bullying/teasing is resolved as a result of the correction of prominent ears.

Plain English Summary:

Botulinum toxin (Botox) and face and brow lifts are usually used for cosmetic purposes to address changes associated with aging. As they are usually used to improve your appearance rather than your health, they are not normally available on the NHS.

Rhinoplasty is a surgical procedure performed on the nose to change its size or shape (or both). It is often used for cosmetic purposes to improve self-image. As it is usually used to improve your appearance rather than your health, they are not normally available on the NHS.

Policy Category:**INNF****Who usually applies for funding?****GP/Consultant**

Rhinophyma is a swelling of the nose. If the condition progresses, the nose becomes redder, swollen at the end and gains a bumpy surface which changes its shape. This swelling is because there is formation of scar-like tissue and the sebaceous glands (which produce oil on the skin) get bigger. As treatment is usually to improve your appearance rather than your health, it is not normally available on the NHS.

Pinnaplasty is a surgical procedure to correct prominent ears. It is considered a cosmetic procedure to improve appearance rather than health and is therefore not normally available on the NHS.

Many split earlobes follow the wearing of excessively heavy earrings with insufficient tissue to support them. Correction of split earlobes is not always successful, and the earlobe is a site where poor scar formation is a recognised risk. Correction of split earlobes is considered a cosmetic procedure to improve appearance rather than health and is therefore not normally available on the NHS.

Surgical treatment for male pattern baldness is used for cosmetic purposes to improve self-image. As it is used to improve appearance rather than health it is not normally available on the NHS.

If your doctor believes that you have exceptional circumstances that would warrant you receiving one of these procedures on the NHS they are able to submit an Individual Funding Request application to the ICB for consideration. The ICB will consider the evidence presented and determine whether or not to fund the procedure on an exceptional basis.

Evidence base:

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

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 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 only	Jan 2020	Policy review date changed to Jan 2023
3	Review date only	21.03.2023	Policy review date changed to March 2026
4	Wording added to	13.06.2023	Clarification of

Policy Category:

INNF

Who usually applies for funding?

GP/Consultant

	Policy Statement and Plain English Summary		Rhinophyma prior approval criteria. Approved by Executive Directors M Andrews-Evans & M Walkinshaw 5.7.23
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