

Female Breast Reduction

Commissioning decision	Female breast reduction surgery is 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:

Requests for individual funding may be considered where:

- There are exceptional circumstances
AND
- The patient's BMI is ≤ 27
AND
- All other advice and support have failed, including the wearing of a professionally fitted brassiere from the lingerie department of a clothing store or a specialty lingerie store.
- Meeting the above criteria does not guarantee funding approval, evidence of capacity to benefit needs to be demonstrated

Note: Patients must have completed puberty.

Note: The commissioning remit of breast reduction surgery (mastectomy) as part of gender reassignment treatment for trans-men lies with NHS England.

Rationale:

Breast reduction places considerable demand on NHS resources (volume of cases and length of surgery). There is published evidence showing that most women seeking breast reduction are not wearing a bra of the correct size and that a well fitted bra can sometimes alleviate the symptoms that are troubling the patient.

The goal of medically necessary breast reduction surgery is to relieve symptoms of pain and disability related to excessive breast weight.

Plain English Summary:

Female breast reduction, also known as reduction mammoplasty, is an operation to reduce the weight and volume of the breasts. During the procedure, fat, glandular tissue and skin are removed from the breasts, which are then reshaped, and the nipples repositioned.

If breast reduction is to improve appearance it is not normally available on the NHS. If your doctor believes that you have significant health problems that could be alleviated through breast reduction surgery the ICB may consider funding the surgery, however any requests for funding will be considered on a case-by-case basis and will need to demonstrate why your case is exceptional.

Policy Category:**INNF****Who usually applies for funding?****GP/Cons****Evidence base:**

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

Shah, Al-Ajam, Stott and King. Obesity in mamaoplasty: a study of complications following breast reduction. (2010) *Journal of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery*

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	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	4.12.18	Review date changed to December 2021
3	Review date & 4 th bullet point added	10.3.22	Review date changed to March 2025. 4 th bullet point added.