

Policy Category:

CBA

Who usually applies for funding?

Not Applicable

## Hysterectomy for heavy menstrual bleeding

**Commissioning decision**

**The ICB will provide funding for Hysterectomy patients (with heavy menstrual bleeding) who meet the criteria defined within this policy.**

### Policy Statement:

Hysterectomy should not be used as a first-line treatment solely for heavy menstrual bleeding. Hysterectomy for heavy menstrual bleeding is only commissioned where:

- Other treatment options such as levonorgestrel intrauterine system, other hormone method, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents, tranexamic acid and endometrial ablation have failed, are contra-indicated or are declined by the woman.
- In case of fibroids over 3cm diameter uterine artery embolisation or myomectomy has been considered first.  
**AND**
- there is a wish for amenorrhoea  
**AND**
- the woman no longer wishes to retain her uterus and fertility  
**AND**
- the fully informed patient requests hysterectomy.

In all instances, women offered hysterectomy should

- have a full discussion of the implication of the surgery before a decision is made. The discussion should include sexual feelings, fertility impact, bladder function, need for further treatment, treatment complications, the woman's expectations, alternative surgery and psychological impact.
- be informed about the increased risk of serious complications (such as intraoperative haemorrhage or damage to other abdominal organs) associated with hysterectomy when uterine fibroids are present.
- be informed about the risk of possible loss of ovarian function and its consequences, even if their ovaries are retained during hysterectomy.

Taking into account the need for individual assessment, the route of hysterectomy should be considered in the following order: first line vaginal; second line abdominal.

### Rationale:

Policy based on the recommendations of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE).

### Plain English Summary:

Hysterectomy is the surgical removal of the uterus (womb). Hysterectomy is an essential procedure in some instances such as malignancy, but there are conditions, such as heavy menstrual bleeding (HMB) and fibroids, where alternative treatments may be preferred and should be considered first. Where heavy menstrual bleeding is the sole reason for considering a hysterectomy the ICB will only fund the procedure if alternative less invasive options have been attempted first.

If your doctor believes that you meet the criteria set out in this policy the ICB will fund the treatment.

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**Not Applicable**

**Evidence base:**

NICE Guideline No. 88 Heavy Menstrual Bleeding (2018)

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng88>

[Heavy menstrual bleeding \(QS47\)](#)

Similarity to neighbouring ICB policies – Bristol ICB, South Gloucestershire ICB, Bath and North East Somerset ICB, Oxfordshire ICB

For further information please contact [GLICB.IFR@nhs.net](mailto:GLICB.IFR@nhs.net)

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<b>Policy review date</b>	March 2026

**Policy sign off:**

<b>Reviewing Body</b>	<b>Date of review</b>
Effective Clinical Commissioning Policy Group	3 <sup>rd</sup> August 2015
Integrated Governance and Quality Committee	20 <sup>th</sup> August 2015

**Version Control:**

<b>Version No</b>	<b>Type of Change</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description of Change</b>
1		12.10.2015	
2	Minor amendment	11.07.2016	
3	Policy category change	13.09.2016	Policy changed to CBA
4	NICE Guideline updated. Policy review date.	15.03.2018	NICE Guideline link updated from number 44 to number 88. Policy review date changed to March 2020
5	Review date only	11.06.2020	Policy review date changed to March 2023.
6	Review date only	21.03.2023	Policy review date changed to March 2026