

## Other Breast Procedures

### Commissioning decision

Cosmetic breast procedures listed in this policy 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.

### Policy Statement:

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

- Breast mastopexy (breast lifting)
- Corrective surgery on nipple (e.g. nipple inversion)
- Removal of supernumerary nipples (exceptionally, supernumerary nipples that develop in conjunction with breast tissue and/or ducts (polymastia) may be considered for treatment)

### Rationale:

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

### Plain English Summary:

Breast lifts are cosmetic procedures that raise the breast by removing excess tissue and tightening the surrounding tissue. Cosmetic procedures are not normally available on the NHS.

Inverted nipples are usually present from birth. Surgery to correct inverted nipples is considered a cosmetic procedure and is not normally available on the NHS.

Supernumerary nipples are additional nipples, often referred to as third nipples. As a general rule these are harmless, and no medical intervention is required to remove them. Removal is therefore considered a cosmetic procedure and is not normally available on the NHS.

If your doctor believes that you have exceptional circumstances, they can submit an Individual Funding Request application to the ICB in order to seek funding approval for your surgery. The ICB will review your case and if we agree that you have exceptional circumstances, 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)

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

**Policy Category:**

**INNF**

**Who usually applies for funding?**

**GP/Cons**

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<b>Policy review date</b>	March 2025

### Policy sign off

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

### Version Control

<b>Version No</b>	<b>Type of Change</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description of Change</b>
2	Review date	4.12.18	Review date changed from 8.11.18 to December 2021
3	Review date	10.3.22	Review date changed to March 2025