

Policy Category:

CBA + PA

Who usually applies for funding?

GP

## Surgical removal of lipomata

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| <b>Commissioning decision</b> | <b>Removal of <u>lipomata</u> is funded for patients that meet the criteria set out in this policy. Funding approval for eligible patients must be sought from the ICB via the Prior Approval process prior to treatment.</b> |
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### Policy Statement:

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| <b>Prior Approval</b> | <p><b><u>Lipomata</u></b></p> <p>Soft tissue subcutaneous lesions, particularly over 5cms, that are not clearly longstanding and asymptomatic may be a soft tissue sarcoma. NICE guidance suggests that a rapid access ultrasound scan is usually the most appropriate diagnostic test to check the nature of any suspicious lesions which then, if abnormal, should be referred on to a Specialist Sarcoma Centre.</p> <p>Referral for secondary care treatment is appropriate if the following is met and funding approval for removal of lipomata must be sought via the Prior Approval process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wherever possible removal should be undertaken in Primary Care under the Minor Surgery Direct Enhanced Service/inter-practice Minor Surgery Enhanced Service. Referral for treatment in secondary care should only be made where treatment is beyond GP surgical care (GP to confirm this at the time of application)</li></ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Obvious/proven lipomata that are large (&gt;5cms) or in a particularly difficult site</li></ul> <p><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The patient is experiencing severe functional impairment of activities of daily living (details of the impact on daily activities to be included in the application)</li></ul> |
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### Rationale:

Lipomas are harmless and do not usually require any treatment. Removal should be undertaken in primary care wherever possible as this is more cost-effective.

### Plain English Summary:

Lipomas are soft fatty lumps under the skin. They are harmless and do not usually require any treatment. In Gloucestershire removal is supported where the lipoma is particularly large (over 5cm) or where it is causing you significant issues on a day-to-day basis that are preventing you from undertaking normal activities. If your doctor thinks that your lipoma meets the criteria set out in this policy for removal, they can apply to the ICB for funding approval for surgical removal.

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NHS England, *Evidence Based Interventions*, November 2018

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

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| <b>Policy review date</b>  | September 2023 |

**Policy sign off**

| <b>Reviewing Body</b>                         | <b>Date of review</b>   |
|---|-------------------------|
| Effective Clinical Commissioning Policy Group | 17 September 2020       |
| Integrated Governance and Quality Committee   | Original policy 18/6/15 |

**Version Control**

| <b>Version No</b> | <b>Type of Change</b>   | <b>Date</b> | <b>Description of Change</b>  |
|-------------------|---|-------------|---|
| 0.1               | Skin & Subcutaneous Procedures Policy split into 3 policies. Minor word change. | Sept 20     | Skin & Subcutaneous Policy split into three separate policies (1) Removal of benign Skin lesions (2) <b>Surgical removal of lipomata</b> and (3) Cosmetic skin and subcutaneous procedures. |