

Policy Category:

CBA

Who usually applies for funding?

Not applicable

Tongue-tie in Breastfed infants

Commissioning decision	The ICB will provide funding for tongue-tie surgery for infants who meet the criteria defined within this policy.
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Policy Statement:

Tongue-tie division is commissioned for infants, 16 weeks or younger, who are experiencing breast feeding problems assessed to result from the tongue-tie and despite having skilled support in breastfeeding management.

Rationale:

It is reported that between 3% and 10% of babies are born with some degree of tongue tie or ankyloglossia. Of these, some will have no problem feeding, but a number will experience difficulty with establishing breastfeeding and tongue-tie division may offer some benefit. Surgery will be funded for those infants that do experience feeding problems as a result of the tongue tie.

Plain English Summary:

Tongue-tie is a birth defect that affects up to 10% of newborn babies. It's more common in boys than girls.

Normally, the tongue is loosely attached to the base of the mouth with a piece of skin called the lingual frenulum. In babies with tongue-tie, this piece of skin is unusually short and tight, restricting the tongue's movement. This may prevent the baby feeding properly.

Treatment is not necessary if your baby has a piece of skin connecting the underside of their tongue to the floor of their mouth, but they can feed without any problems. However, where there are feeding problems, a procedure called tongue-tie division can be performed.

Tongue-tie division involves cutting the short, tight piece of skin connecting the underside of the tongue to the floor of the mouth. It's a simple and almost painless procedure that usually resolves feeding problems straight away.

Evidence base:

NICE guidelines on [Division of tongue-tie for breastfeeding](#).

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
1		1.8.2015	
2	Minor amendment	11.7.16	Minor amendment
3	No policy changes	16.5.17	Review date June 2019
4	Date change	17.9.19	Review date changed to September 2022. NICE guidelines link checked up to date.
5	Date change	22.9.22	Review date change to September 2025. No changes to policy.