

Policy Category:

CBA

Who usually applies for funding?

Not applicable

## Voice box Surgery

**Commissioning decision**

The ICB will provide funding for voice box surgery for patients who meet the criteria defined within this policy.

### Policy Statement:

Voice box surgery is commissioned for patients who meet the following criteria:

The patient has dysphonia, defined as:

- Their voice has unexpectedly changed (in terms of quality, pitch, loudness or vocal effort)
- The voice change has limited their ability to communicate with others
- Their symptoms prevent them fulfilling vital work, domestic or carer activities.

**AND**

The patient has completed a course of voice therapy but has a significant continuing health need.

**AND**

Dysphonia is due to organic pathology for which surgical intervention is very likely to be effective.

Note: Ability to speak box surgery is not commissioned as part of the Gender Dysphoria Pathway.

### Rationale:

Conservative approaches should have been attempted before surgical intervention is considered.

### Plain English Summary:

NHS Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board (ICB) will fund an operation to the voice box for people who have the following symptoms:

The person has changes to the sound of their voice where:

- Their voice has unexpectedly changed (less clear, quieter in volume, changed pitch or it is more difficult to speak)
- The voice change has made it more difficult to speak to other people and be understood
- The problems with their speech stop the person from being able to do their employed job, or it affects speaking with family members or being a carer for someone else.

**AND**

The person has completed a course of speech therapy but still has an ongoing difficulty with their voice.

**AND**

The changes to the voice causing the problem are very likely to be helped by having an operation.

Note: Voice box surgery is not provided on the NHS as part of gender change surgery.

**Policy Category:****CBA****Who usually applies for funding?****Not applicable****Evidence base:**

Similarity to other local IFR policies – Bristol, Bath and Northeast Somerset, and South Gloucestershire.
---

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

<b>Date of publication</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> August 2015
<b>Policy review date</b>	December 2024

**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	Plain English summary and review date.	4.12.18	Plain English Summary updated. Review date changed to December 2021
3	Review date	9.12.21	Review date changed to December 2024