

Policy Category:

INNF

Who usually applies for funding?

GP

Cosmetic Skin and subcutaneous procedures

Commissioning decision	The procedures set out in this policy are considered low value and are not routinely funded. Funding will only be approved in exceptional circumstances and approval must be sought from the ICB via the Individual Funding Request.
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Policy Statement:

INNF	<p>The following procedures will only be funded in exceptional circumstances following a successful application via the Individual Funding Request process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cosmetic scar revision for keloid and hypertrophic scars (exceptions will only be considered where scarring impacts severely on physical function).• Labiaplasty (unless where labia are directly contributing to recurrent urinary tract disease or infection or where repair of the labia is required after trauma)• Vaginoplasty, hymenopathy• Penile enlargement• Tattoo removal (by any method)• Skin 'resurfacing' e.g., dermabrasion, laser and chemical peels• Treatments for hirsutism e.g. eflornithine (Vaniqua®) / hair depilation
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Rationale:

These procedures are considered to be largely cosmetic in nature. Cosmetic surgery is a low priority for NHS funding and will not generally be funded by the ICB.

Plain English Summary:

The procedures listed in this policy are all considered to be cosmetic procedures that are usually used to improve your appearance rather than your health. The NHS does not usually fund cosmetic procedures and therefore generally these treatments cannot be accessed in Gloucestershire. If your doctor believes that you have particular circumstances that mean one of these treatments should be funded for you, they can submit a funding request to the ICB via the Individual Funding Request (IFR) process for consideration.

Evidence base:

Information for commissioners of Plastic Surgery Services - Referrals and Guidelines in Plastic Surgery <https://www.bapras.org.uk/docs/default-source/commissioning-and-policy/information-for-commissioners-of-plastic-surgery-services.pdf?sfvrsn=2>

NHS information on cosmetic procedures and keloid scars

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/cosmetic-procedures/advice/cosmetic-procedures-on-the-nhs/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/keloid-scars/>

For further information please contact GLICB.IFR@nhs.net

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Date of publication	October 2020
Policy review date	December 2026

Policy sign off

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

Version Control

Version No	Type of Change	Date	Description of Change
0.1	Skin & Subcutaneous Procedures Policy split into 3 policies. Minor word change.	September 2020	Skin & Subcutaneous Policy split into three separate policies (1) Removal of benign Skin lesions (2) Surgical removal of lipomata and (3) Cosmetic skin and subcutaneous procedures.
0.2	Review date change Links to guidance updated	December 2023	Review date changed to December 2026 Links to guidance updated under evidence base section