

Commissioning Policy

Blepharoplasty

Criteria Based Access/Prior Approval (CBA/PA)

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Version: v3

Authorisation and document control

Name of policy:	Blepharoplasty
Job title of author:	Commissioning Manager – Elective Care
Name of sign off group:	Commissioning Policy Review Group

Equality and Engagement Impact Assessment	
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To be reviewed by (job title)	Commissioning Manager – Elective Care

Version control				
Version number	Date	Summary of changes	Author/Editor	Approved by
2	22/04/22	Minor changes	Commissioning Manager	Objective definition of hooding drawn from the
	09/06/22	Review date agreed at June 2025		

				measurements of the Esterman test. Minor change ratified by Executive Directors M Walkingshaw & M Andrews-Evans 13.7.22.
3	10/06/2025	New policy template adopted. No changes to policy. Review date of June 2028 agreed.	Commissioning Manager – Elective Care	CPRG

1.0 Background

Dermatochalasis is a normal aspect of ageing. The treatment, blepharoplasty, is the second most common cosmetic procedure in the UK. For the majority of patients, the request for a blepharoplasty is cosmetic rather than functional reasons. When there is functional deficit, this can be demonstrated by formal visual field testing. The official Esterman visual field test, done with both eyes open is the preferred test.

The NHS will only offer treatment for excess upper eyelid skin when the excess skin is causing disruption to the visual field such that it impacts on the activities of daily living, such as reading or driving, and this is documented in the patient's notes.

2.0 Policy statement

Policy category	Policy details
CBA+PA	<p>A referral to secondary care for the treatment of dermatochalasis will only be funded if:</p> <p>The patient's temporal hooding is causing such visual field loss that they have failed the Esterman* (binocular) visual field test.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Impairment of vision in the relaxed, non-compensated state as determined by the Visual field test reducing visual field to 120° horizontally and/or 40° or less vertically.</i> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>pupil is occluded by lid or skin, by more than a 30% margin.</i> <p>*The Esterman test can be performed at high street optometrists or the Hospital Eye Service (HES)</p> <p>In cases where there is a medical reason such as facial palsy or upper lid entropion these criteria will not apply, and the consultant can proceed in line with clinical judgement.</p>

3.0 Patients who are not eligible for treatment under this policy

Patients who are not eligible for treatment under this policy may be considered on an individual basis where their GP or consultant believes exceptional circumstances exist that warrant deviation from the rule of this policy.

Individual cases will be reviewed at the ICB's Individual Funding Request Panel upon receipt of a completed application form from the patient's GP, Consultant or Clinician. Applications cannot be considered from patients personally.

4.0 Connected policies

None

5.0 References

[Eyelid surgery - NHS](#)