

Commissioning Policy

Voice box Surgery

Criteria Based Access (CBA)

Date adopted: 10.06.2025

Version: 2.2

Authorisation and document control

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| Name of policy: | Voice Box Surgery |
| Job title of author: | Senior Programme Commissioning Manager |
| Name of sign off group: | Commissioning Policy Review Group |

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| GHFT ENT Department | April 2025 |

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| 2 | Dec 2018 | Plain English summary updated. | IFR Manager | ECCP Group |
| 2.1 | Dec 21 | Review date updated. No change to policy | IFR Manager | ECCP Group |
| 2.2 | May 2025 | Policy moved to new policy template but no change to criteria | Senior Programme Manager | Commissioning Policy Review Group |

1.0 Background

The main purpose of this surgery is to improve or restore the quality of a person's voice. It does not include surgery where the main aim is to treat other symptoms and disease of the larynx. Dysphonia is the term used to refer to disorders of the voice. This may present as a hoarse, weak, breathy, or strained voice, with or without pain or discomfort in the throat.

2.0 Policy statement

Policy details

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

The patient has significant dysphonia, defined as:

- Their voice has unexpectedly changed (in terms of quality, pitch, loudness or vocal effort)
- The voice change has significantly 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 via an NHS commissioned Speech and Language Therapist 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 voicebox surgery is not commissioned as part of the Gender Dysphoria Pathway.

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

Laryngeal and Vocal Cord Surgery policy, BNSSG, [Laryngeal-and-Vocal-Cord-Surgery-BNSSG-3-2324-.pdf](#)