

Commissioning Policy

Dupuytren's surgery

Prior Approval (PA)

Date adopted: 01.09.2025

Version: 5

Authorisation and document control

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| Name of policy: | Dupuytren's Surgery |
| Job title of author: | Senior Commissioning Programme Manager |
| Name of sign off group: | Commissioning Policy Review Group |

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| Version number | Date | Summary of changes | Author/Editor | Approved by |
| 2 | Jan 2020 | Review date changed to January 2023 | | ECCP |
| 3 | 11.06.2020 | Policy type changed from CBA/PA to CBA as from 1.7.2020. | | ECCP |
| 4 | 21.03.2023 | Policy brought in-line with EBI Guidance. | Senior Programme Manager/ | CPRG |

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| | | Review date changed to March 2026 | Editor | |
| 5 | 01.09.2025 | Policy type changed from CBA to CBA/PA New policy template adopted. | Senior Programme Manager/ Editor | Executive Medical Director CPRG |

1.0 Background

Dupuytren's contracture is a condition that affects the hands and fingers. It causes one or more fingers to bend into the palm of the hand. It can affect one or both hands and it can sometimes affect the thumb.

Dupuytren's contracture occurs when the connective tissue in the palm thickens. Often the tissue thickens in one small area first and a "nodule" forms (a small, hard lump about 0.5- 1cm) under the skin of the palm. The nodule sometimes feels tender to begin with, but this usually passes. The nodules are non-cancerous (benign) and the condition is not life- threatening for those who develop it, although it can be a nuisance to live with.

Over time, the nodules can extend and form cords of tissue. These cords can shorten (contract) and, if the cords run along a finger or thumb, they can pull it so it becomes bent towards the palm. These contractures are often mild and painless, but they can get steadily worse over time. Sometimes, the term Dupuytren's disease (palmar fibromatosis) is used instead of Dupuytren's contracture, because not everyone with the condition will develop contractures.

Many cases of Dupuytren's contracture are mild and don't need treatment. Treatment may be helpful if the condition interferes with the normal functioning of your hand. Non-surgical treatments include radiation therapy and injections with a medication called collagenase. Alternatively, a minor procedure that involves using a needle to cut the contracted cord of tissue (needle fasciotomy) may be used in the early stages of the condition. In more severe cases, surgery can help restore hand function. Surgery for Dupuytren's contracture cannot always fully straighten the affected finger or thumb and the contracture can recur after surgery.

As most patients do not need treatment for Dupuytren's disease, treatment is restricted to those with the most severe symptoms, or those exhibiting rapid disease progression.

2.0 Policy statement

| Policy category | Policy details |
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| CBA+PA | <p>The ICB will agree to fund a request for treatment when the following criteria are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finger contractures causing loss of finger extension of 30 degrees or more at the metacarpophalangeal joint or 20 degrees at the proximal interphalangeal joint. <p>OR</p> <p>Severe thumb contractures which interfere with function.</p> <p>Dupuytren's contracture is a fairly common condition that causes one or more fingers to bend into the palm of the hand.</p> <p>Contracture left untreated usually progress and often fail to straighten fully with any treatment if allowed to progress too far. Complications causing loss, rather than</p> |

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| | <p>improvement, in hand function occur more commonly after larger interventions, but larger interventions carry a lower risk of need for further surgery.</p> <p>Prior Approval must be granted by Gloucestershire ICB before treatment.</p> |
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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

Carpal Tunnel Syndrome

Trigger Finger Release

5.0 References

The policy has been aligned to the national Evidence Based Interventions (EBI) guidance for Dupuytren's contracture. [Dupuytren's contracture release in adults - EBI \(aomrc.org.uk\)](http://aomrc.org.uk)

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

NICE Guidance on Needle Fasciotomy for Dupuytren's Contracture Interventional Procedure
Guidance 43, February 2004

W A Townley, R Baker, N Sheppard, A O Grobbelaar. Clinical Review. Dupuytren's contracture unfolded. *BMJ* 2006; 332:397–400