

Commissioning Policy

Surgical Foot procedures

Prior Approval (PA)

Date adopted: 01.09.2025

Version: 5

Authorisation and document control

Name of policy:	Surgical Foot procedures
Job title of author:	Senior Commissioning Programme Manager
Name of sign off group:	Commissioning Policy Review Group

Equality and Engagement Impact Assessment	
Date Equality and Engagement Impact Assessment was completed:	

Consultation	
Name of group	Date considered

Authorisation	
Name of group	Date approved
Commissioning Policy Review Group	30.11.2017
System Quality Committee	07.12.2017

Date of adoption	
Date of publication	18.12.2017
Review date	December 2026
To be reviewed by (job title)	Commissioning Manager – Elective Care

Version control				
Version number	Date	Summary of changes	Author/Editor	Approved by
2	11.06.2020	Policy type changed to CBA from CBA/PA as from 01.07.2020. Review date changed to June 2021	Commissioning Manager	ECCP
3	10.06.2021	Review date changed to June 2023	Commissioning Manager	ECCP
4	18.12.2023	Review date changed to December 2026. Minor word changes to policy statement regarding	Commissioning Manager	Minor changes agreed by M Walkingshaw Executive

		MSK clinician and removal of second paragraph (BMI criteria).		Director 04.01.2024 CPRG
5	01.09.2025	Policy type changed from CBA to CBA/PA. New policy template adopted.	Senior Commissioning Manager – Elective Care	Executive Medical Director CPRG

1.0 Background

These conditions can often be treated effectively through conservative measures and patients should be aware of the potential complications associated with these types of surgical procedures which can include pain, stiffness, infection, swelling, non-union recurrence and DVT/PE.

Given this, it is appropriate to ensure that patients are experiencing significant symptoms as a result of their condition, and to ensure that more conservative measures have been attempted prior to considering surgical intervention.

2.0 Policy statement

Policy category	Policy details
PA	<p>Requests for funding for surgical foot treatments* will be approved where the following criteria are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where the patient has seen an appropriate MSK clinician and conservative treatment, including change in footwear and lifestyle changes (including weight management advice and support if appropriate), has been evidenced but the patient continues to experience significant functional impairment. <p>AND EITHER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The patient is suffering from severe deformity over-riding toes which is causing significant functional impairment** <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The patient is suffering from severe pain (e.g. Visual Analogue Score (VAS) 7+) that is causing significant functional impairment**. <p>Surgery is NOT funded for concerns about the appearance of feet.</p> <p><i>*Conditions included in this policy:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Bunions/Hallux Valgus <input type="checkbox"/> Hallux Rigidus <input type="checkbox"/> Hammer Toe <input type="checkbox"/> Mallet Toe <input type="checkbox"/> Claw Toe <input type="checkbox"/> Plantar Fasciitis <input type="checkbox"/> Morton's Neuroma

	<p>**Significant functional impairment is defined by the ICB as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Symptoms prevent the patient fulfilling vital work or educational responsibilities. <input type="checkbox"/> Symptoms prevent the patient carrying out vital domestic or carer activities. <p>Prior Approval must be granted by Gloucestershire ICB before treatment.</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

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (2022, October) Osteoarthritis In over 16s: diagnosis and management. [Overview | Osteoarthritis in over 16s: diagnosis and management | Guidance | NICE](#)

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. (2010, February). Surgical correction of hallux valgus using minimal access techniques. www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ipg332

NHS Choices. (2014, October). Heel pain www.nhs.uk/conditions/heel-pain/pages/introduction.aspx

Morton's neuroma - [Morton's neuroma - NHS](#)