

Commissioning Policy

Cosmetic Skin and subcutaneous procedures

INNF

Date adopted: 07.10.2025

Version: 0.3

Authorisation and document control

Name of policy:	Cosmetic Skin and subcutaneous procedures
Job title of author:	Assistant Commissioning Manager (Elective Care)
Name of sign off group:	Commissioning Policy Review Group (CPRG)

Equality and Engagement Impact Assessment	
Date Equality and Engagement Impact Assessment was completed:	June 2025

Consultation	
Name of group	Date considered
Dr Emma Le Roux, GP Clinical Lead, Gloucestershire ICB	June 2025
Dr Alex Owen, Dermatology Associate Specialist and Clinical Lead, Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	June 2025

Authorisation	
Name of group	Date approved
Commissioning Policy Review Group	07.10.2025
System Quality Committee	

Date of adoption	October 2020
Date of publication	Original policy 18/6/15
Review date	October 2028
To be reviewed by (job title)	Commissioning Manager – Elective Care

Version control				
Version number	Date	Summary of changes	Author/Editor	Approved by
0.1	September 2020	Skin & Subcutaneous Policy split into three separate policies (1) Removal of benign Skin lesions (2) Surgical	Senior Commissioning Programme Manager	ECCP

		removal of lipomata and (3) Cosmetic skin and subcutaneous procedures. Review date agreed at December 2023	Elective Care	
0.2	December 2023	Review date changed to December 2026 Links to guidance updated under evidence base section	Senior Commissioning Programme Manager – Elective Care	ECCP
0.3	October 2025	New policy template adopted. The inclusion of a limit on intralesional steroid injections added into the policy statement. Review date changed to October 2028.	Assistant Commissioning Manager – Elective Care	CPRG

1.0 Background

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.

2.0 Policy statement

Policy category	Policy details
INNFB	The following procedures will only be funded in exceptional circumstances following a successful application via the Individual Funding Request process: • Funding for intralesional steroid injections to treat keloid and hypertrophic scars is approved for a maximum of 3 injections over 6 months. Repeat injections beyond this require exceptional funding approval via the IFR route (exceptions will only be considered where scarring severely impacts physical function or causes severe pain) • Cosmetic scar revision (excision) for keloid and hypertrophic scars (exceptions will only be considered where scarring impacts severely in 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

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

Removal of Benign Skin Lesions

5.0 References

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/>