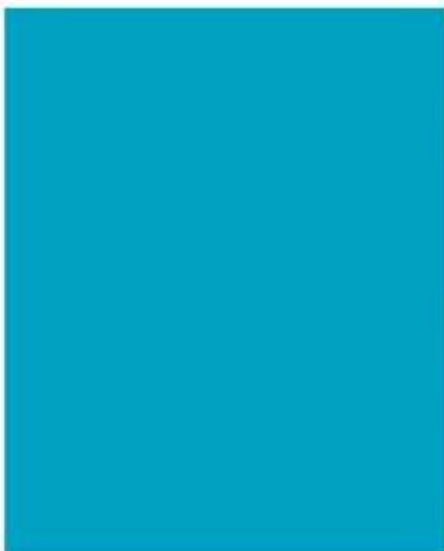


Interim Clinical Commissioning Policy: Bunion Surgery

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Interim Clinical Commissioning Policy

Bunion Surgery

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Policy Statement

NHS England will commission treatments for Bunions in accordance with the criteria outlined in this document.

In creating this policy NHS England has reviewed this clinical condition and the options for its treatment. It has considered the place of this treatment in current clinical practice, whether scientific research has shown the treatment to be of benefit to patients, (including how any benefit is balanced against possible risks) and whether its use represents the best use of NHS resources.

This policy document outlines the arrangements for funding of this treatment for patients where NHS England directly commissions this service.

Equality Statement

NHS England has a duty to have regard to the need to reduce health inequalities in access to health services and health outcomes achieved as enshrined in the Health and Social Care Act 2012. NHS England is committed to ensuring equality of access and non-discrimination, irrespective of age, gender, disability (including learning disability), gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex (gender) or sexual orientation. In carrying out its functions, NHS England will have due regard to the different needs of protected equality groups, in line with the Equality Act 2010. This document is compliant with the NHS Constitution and the Human Rights Act 1998. This applies to all activities for which they are responsible, including policy development, review and implementation.

Plain Language Summary

A bunion is a bony swelling at the base of the big toe. Not all people with bunions are symptomatic (have symptoms).

1. Introduction

The removal of asymptomatic bunions (no symptoms present) is regarded as a procedure of low clinical priority and therefore not routinely funded by the Commissioner.

2. Criteria for commissioning

Referral to Orthopaedic or podiatric surgery should only be made in the following circumstances:

The patient has been reviewed by local podiatry service

In addition, the patient meets at least one of the following criteria:

Self care advice and analgesia has been tried and symptoms are not improving

Severe pain unrelieved by conservative measures

Recurrent infection

Recurrent ulcers

Requests for the removal of symptomatic bunions will ONLY be considered where:

- Conservative methods have failed

AND

- Severe deformity (overriding toes) is causing significant functional impairment*

OR

- Severe pain is causing significant functional impairment*

Do **not** offer referral or surgery for concerns about the appearance of feet.

The Clinician proposing this intervention will make the decision to treat based on the criteria set out above. If the patient does not fully meet this criteria the clinician may submit an application for exceptional funding (application form and contact details on NHS Internet <http://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/d-com/policies/gp/>)

An annual audit will be completed to confirm that patients have been treated in accordance with these criteria.

3. Evidence Base

This procedure is considered to be of limited clinical value.