Interim Clinical Commissioning Policy: Cosmetic surgery/treatment

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### Interim Clinical Commissioning Policy: Cosmetic Surgery/Treatment

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**Target Audience:**
- CCG Clinical Leaders
- CCG Chief Officers
- CSO Managing Directors
- Care Trust CEs
- Foundation Trust CEs
- Medical Directors
- NHS England Regional Directors
- NHS England Area Directors
- Directors of Finance
- GPs
- NHS Trust CEs

**Description:**
The set of non-specialised commissioning policies have been agreed by NHS England’s Clinical Priority Advisory Group (CPAG) and approved by the Directly Commissioned Services Committee (DCSC) as interim policies for those populations we directly commission services for (namely the Serving Armed Forces & some families and those in detained settings).

**Contact Details for further information:**
- **Name:** Andy Bacon
- **Title:** Assistant Head of Armed Forces Health Commissioning
- **Address:** NHS England
  - Skipton House, London
  - SE1 6LH
- **Email:** armedforceshealth@nhs.net

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Interim Clinical Commissioning Policy

Cosmetic surgery/treatment

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Policy Statement

NHS England will commission Cosmetic surgery/treatment 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 Armed Forces personnel and their families who are registered with Defence Medical Centres.

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

Cosmetic surgery is often carried out to change a person’s appearance in order to achieve what they perceive to be a more desirable look.

1. Introduction

Cosmetic surgery/treatments are regarded as procedures of low clinical priority and therefore not routinely funded by the Commissioner.

The following Cosmetic surgery/treatments are addressed in individual Interim Commissioning Policies [http://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/d-com/policies/ssp/]

- Breast asymmetry surgery
- Breast implant removal/re-insertion
- Breast Lift (Mastoplexy)
- Breast reduction (female)
- Breast Reduction (male)
2. Criteria for commissioning

Cosmetic surgery/treatments are regarded as procedures of low clinical priority and therefore not routinely funded by the Commissioner.

Principles

Commissioning decisions by NHS England are made in accordance with the commissioning principles set out below, and in the NHS England Individual Funding Request Policy:

1. NHS England requires clear evidence of clinical effectiveness before NHS resources are invested in the treatment.

2. NHS England requires clear evidence of cost effectiveness before NHS resources are invested in the treatment.

3. The cost of the treatment for this patient and others within any anticipated cohort is a relevant factor.

4. NHS England will consider the extent to which the individual or patient group will gain a benefit from the treatment.

5. NHS England will balance the needs of each individual against the benefit which could be gained by alternative investment possibilities to meet the needs of the community.

6. NHS England will consider all relevant national standards and take into account all proper and authoritative guidance.

7. Where a treatment is approved NHS England will respect patient choice as to where a treatment is delivered.

The clinician may submit an application for exceptional funding (Individual funding request policy, application form and contact details on NHS Internet – [http://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/d-com/policies/gp/](http://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/d-com/policies/gp/))
3. Evidence Base

Procedures under this policy are considered to be of limited clinical value