

Interim Clinical Commissioning  
Policy: Cosmetic surgery/treatment

Agreed: November 2013

Ref: N-SC/011



**NHS England INFORMATION READER BOX****Directorate**

Medical	<b>Operations</b>	Patients and Information
Nursing	Policy	Commissioning Development
Finance	Human Resources	

**Publications Gateway Reference:****00586****Document Purpose** Resources**Document Name** Interim Clinical Commissioning Policy: Cosmetic Surgery/Treatment**Author** NHS England/Operations Directorate/Direct Commissioning**Publication Date** 19 November 2013**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**Additional Circulation List****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services for (namely the Serving Armed Forces & some families and those in detained settings)**Cross Reference** N/A**Superseded Docs (if applicable)** N/A**Action Required** N/A**Timing / Deadlines (if applicable)** N/A**Contact Details for further information** Andy Bacon  
Assistant Head of Armed Forces Health Commissioning  
NHS England  
Skipton House, London  
SE1 6LH  
armedforceshealth@nhs.net**Document Status**

This is a controlled document. Whilst this document may be printed, the electronic version posted on the intranet is the controlled copy. Any printed copies of this document are not controlled. As a controlled document, this document should not be saved onto local or network drives but should always be accessed from the intranet

# Interim Clinical Commissioning Policy

## *Cosmetic surgery/treatment*

First published: November 2013

**Prepared by Armed Forces Commissioning Policy Task and Finish Group**

Published by NHS England in electronic format only

Gateway Reference: 00586

## Contents

Policy Statement .....	4
Equality Statement .....	4
Plain Language Summary .....	4
1. Introduction .....	4
2. Criteria for commissioning .....	5
3. Evidence Base .....	6

## 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 (Mastopexy)

Breast reduction (female)

Breast Reduction (male)

Hair Removal

Pinnaplasty/Otoplasty

Labiaplasty

Tattoo removal

Varicose Veins

## 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/>)**

### 3. Evidence Base

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