

Interim Clinical Commissioning
Policy: Hair Removal (including
Electrolysis and Laser Therapy)

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Interim Clinical Commissioning Policy

Hair Removal (including Electrolysis and Laser Therapy)

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Contents

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

Policy Statement

NHS England will commission treatments for Hair Removal (including Electrolysis and Laser Therapy) 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

There are a number of ways to remove or disguise excess hair. As these are considered 'cosmetic' treatments to improve physical appearance, they are unlikely to be funded routinely by the NHS.

1. Introduction

Treatment for hair removal is regarded as a procedure of low clinical priority and therefore not routinely funded by the Commissioner.

2. Criteria for commissioning

There is no routine commissioning of treatments for permanent or semi-permanent hair removal for cosmetic purposes, including Electrolysis and Laser Therapy.

Patients concerned with the appearance of their body and facial hair should be advised about managing their condition through conservative methods including shaving, waxing, and depilatory creams although such treatments are also not routinely commissioned or funded by the Commissioner.

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

This procedure is considered to be of limited clinical value