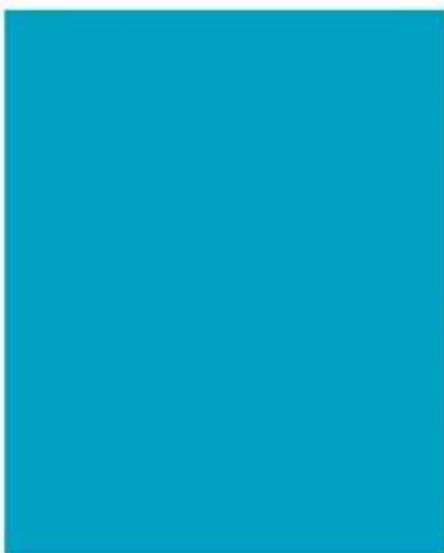


Interim Clinical Commissioning Policy: Tattoo Removal

Agreed: November 2013

Ref: N-SC/032



Interim Clinical Commissioning Policy

Tattoo Removal

First published: November 2013

Prepared by Armed Forces Commissioning Policy Task and Finish Group

Published by NHS England in electronic format only

Gateway Reference: 00607

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 Tattoo Removal 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

Tattoo removals are rarely available on the NHS, for example, if a person no longer likes or wants their tattoo. In rare cases, cosmetic surgery may be required to protect a person's health.

1. Introduction

The removal of tattoos is regarded as a procedure of low clinical priority and therefore not routinely funded by the Commissioner.

2. Criteria for commissioning

Requests for the removal of tattoos will be considered:

- Where the dye has caused a significant allergic reaction and/or infection,
- AND
- All alternative treatments to manage the allergic reaction and/or infection have failed.
- OR
- A person has been given a tattoo against their will (rape tattoo).

The Clinician proposing this intervention is required to secure Prior Approval from the Armed Forces Commissioning or Health & Justice Commissioning Team in their area

(Application form and contact details can be found on NHS Internet <http://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/d-com/policies/ssp/>)

3. Evidence Base

This procedure is considered to be of limited clinical value