

## BOB ICB and Frimley ICB Priorities Committee Clinical Commissioning Policy Statement

Policy Number/ Name	BOBFPC16 Aesthetic Treatments for Adults and Children
Date of BOB ICB Adoption	June 2024

The Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire West ICB and Frimley ICB Priorities Committee has considered the evidence for the clinical and cost effectiveness of aesthetic treatments. The Committee found insufficient evidence of clinical and cost effectiveness to warrant the commissioning of aesthetic treatments and therefore these procedures are **not normally funded**. Adults and children will not normally be offered aesthetic treatments in either specialist, secondary or primary care.

Aesthetic or cosmetic interventions are intended to change aspects of a person's appearance. There has been a general policy of non-purchase of aesthetic treatments since 1996. However, procedures continue to be carried out without the prior approval of NHS commissioners. It has been re-confirmed by the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire West ICB and Frimley ICB Priorities Committee that no referrals should be made by GPs, or other clinicians, for any aesthetic procedure. Referring patients for treatments that can only be funded in exceptional circumstances may raise false expectations.

If clinicians consider that their patient's case for an aesthetic intervention provides grounds for funding as an exception to policy, then an application for individual funding should be submitted to their NHS ICB.

A list of examples of aesthetic interventions that are not commissioned is provided below. It should be noted, however, that this list is **illustrative** and **not exhaustive**.

### Examples of aesthetic procedures **not normally funded**

#### **Breast surgery** (for 'Post breast cancer breast reconstruction' see BOBF91)

- Breast lift (mastopexy)
- Correction of inverted nipple
- Removal of supernumerary nipples (polymastia)
- Breast augmentation and revision of breast augmentation
- Male breast tissue reduction (gynaecomastia)

## **Skin and hair**

- Excision of redundant skin, subcutaneous tissue or fat, including abdominoplasty, apronectomy, buttock lift, thigh lift, upper arm reduction (brachioplasty); buttock augmentation and body contouring procedures, e.g., following weight loss interventions/surgery
- Liposuction of subcutaneous tissue
- Surgery for divarication/diastasis of the abdominal recti
- Aesthetic operations on umbilicus
- Tattoo removal
- Dermabrasion
- Cosmetic revision of scars (keloid and hypertrophic scars)
- Hair transplantation / hair graft / intralace for hair loss
- Laser hair removal
- Vaginal tightening and vaginoplasty\*
- Refashioning of the vaginal labia\*
- Treatments for facial hirsutism

***\*Please note:** Clinicians must be assured that there is a clear clinical rationale for any potential intervention as all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons are defined as Female Genital Mutilation and as such are against the law. (The Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003).*

*Clinicians must be alert to the possibility that some patients who seek revision surgery may do so as a result of previous interventions which are classed as unlawful under the Act.*

## **Surgery to the face**

- Laser / Pulse Dye Laser Treatment of 'Port Wine Stains' and other skin lesions
- Surgery for prominent / bat ears (pinnaplasty / otoplasty)
- Liposuction of neck and jowls (submental lipectomy)
- Face lift (rhytidectomy)
- Brow lift
- Eyelid surgery (blepharoplasty), including ptosis of eyelid
- Nose reshaping (rhinoplasty/septorhinoplasty)
- Non-urgent repair of lobe of external ear
- Surgery to correct a bulbous/ruddy nose (rhinophyma)
- Tooth whitening and dental veneers
- Botox for anti-aging
- Laser eye surgery for the avoidance of wearing glasses
- Treatments for facial hirsutism

Other policies of potential relevance:

- Post breast cancer breast reconstruction - see BOBFPC91
- Benign skin lesion removal - see BOBFPC115
- Breast reduction surgery - see BOBFPC112
- Eye lid surgery - see BOBFPC113
- Breast prosthesis removal - see BOBFPC114
- Management of ectropion and entropion - see BOBFPC70
- Treatment of hyperhidrosis (excessive sweating) - see BOBFPC21
- Treatment of varicose veins - see BOBFPC1

**For dental implants, contact NHS England area team or NHS England website for Primary Dental Services.**

NOTES:

- Potentially exceptional circumstances may be considered by a patient's ICB where there is evidence of significant health status impairment (e.g. inability to perform activities of daily living) and there is evidence that the intervention sought would improve the individual's health status.
- This policy was developed and recommended by Thames Valley Priorities Committee which was the predecessor of Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire West ICB and Frimley ICB Priorities Committee.
- This policy will be reviewed in the light of new evidence or new national guidance, e.g., from NICE.
- BOBFPC clinical policy statements can be viewed at [Clinical Commissioning Policy Statements & IFRs | BOB ICB](#)

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Reason for change</b>
Version 1	2014	Legacy policy
Version 1.2	2017	Policy update: addition ectropion and entropion guidance note
Version 1.3	2018	Policy update: clarification of points 5 and 6 'Breast surgery'
Version 1.4	2019	Policy update: May clarification of risk reducing surgery; Guidance note 5. November addition of facial hirsutism in policy following an evidence review.
Version 1.4	2020	Evidence review update January 2020 for divarication of recti. No change to policy position.
Version 2	March 2024	Policy update to remove additional guidance notes and transfer breast prosthesis revision information into 'Breast reconstruction post breast cancer' policy BOBF91. Update has taken account of the May 2023 EBI recommendations.