

BOB ICB and Frimley ICB Priorities Committee Clinical Commissioning Policy Statement

Policy Number/ Name	BOBFPC112 Breast Reduction Surgery
Date of BOB ICB Adoption	June 2024

Breast reduction surgery is a procedure to treat women with breast hyperplasia (enlargement), where breasts are large enough to cause clinical problems. The aim of surgery is to reduce clinical symptoms. Surgery is not normally funded for cosmetic reasons.

The NHS will only offer breast reduction surgery for women if **all** the following criteria are met:

- The woman has received a full package of supportive care from their GP such as advice on weight loss and managing pain.
- In cases of thoracic/ shoulder girdle discomfort, a physiotherapy assessment has been provided.
- Breast size results in functional symptoms that require other treatments or interventions (e.g. intractable candidal intertrigo; thoracic backache/kyphosis where a professionally fitted bra has not helped with backache, soft tissue indentations at site of bra straps).
- Breast reduction planned to be 500gms or more per breast or at least 4 cup sizes.
- Body mass index (BMI) is <27/m² and stable for at least 12 months.
- The individual has received written information to allow them to balance the risks and benefits of breast surgery.
- The individual has been informed that smoking increases complications following breast reduction surgery and should be advised to stop smoking.
- The individual has been informed that breast surgery for hypermastia can cause permanent loss of lactation.

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 will be reviewed in the light of new evidence or new national guidance, e.g., from NICE.
- BOBFPC clinical policies can be viewed at [Clinical Commissioning Policy Statements & IFRs | BOB ICB](#)

Version	Date	Reason for change
1.0	March 2024	New criteria-based policy. Criteria informed by the NHS England Evidence Based Interventions programme recommendations.