

BOB ICB and Frimley ICB Priorities Committee Clinical Commissioning Policy Statement

Policy Number/ Name	BOBFPC115 Benign Skin Lesions Removal
Date of BOB ICB Adoption	June 2024

Removal of benign skin lesions means treating asymptomatic lumps, bumps or tags on the skin that are not suspicious of cancer. Treatment carries a small risk of infection, bleeding or scarring and is not offered by the NHS to improve appearance.

A patient with a skin or subcutaneous lesion that has features suspicious of malignancy must be treated or referred according to NICE guideline NG12 Suspected cancer: recognition and referral. This policy does not refer to pre-malignant lesions and other lesions with potential to cause harm.

Benign skin lesions must meet **at least one** of the following criteria to be removed:

- The lesion is unavoidably and significantly traumatised on a regular basis with evidence of this causing regular bleeding or resulting in infections such that the patient requires 2 or more courses of antibiotics (oral or intravenous) per year.
- There is repeated infection requiring 2 or more antibiotics per year.
- The lesion bleeds in the course of normal everyday activity.
- The lesion is obstructing an orifice or impairing field vision.
- The lesion significantly impacts on function e.g. restricts joint movement.
- The lesion causes pressure symptoms e.g. on nerve or tissue.
- If left untreated, more invasive intervention would be required for removal.

Lipomas on the body > 5cms, or in a sub-facial position, with rapid growth and/or pain should be referred to sarcoma clinic.

This policy applies to all providers.

The following are outside the scope of this policy:

- Lesions that are malignant, pre-malignant or have malignant potential.
- Lesions that are addressed by other local policy, please see BOBF16 Aesthetic surgery in adults and children.
- Procedures that are the commissioning responsibility of NHS England, including removal of facial spider naevi in children. Queries around treatment availability and eligibility, as well as referrals and applications for funding should be directed to NHS England.

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 NHS England Evidence Based Interventions programme recommendations.