

HIRSUTISM - LASER THERAPY

EXCEPTIONAL FUNDING REQUIRED

Policy Statement:

Laser therapy for hirsutism is a cosmetic procedure and is not normally funded.

Background:

Hirsutism refers to excessive growth of dark, thick, and coarse hair in an individual (usually female) in a male pattern. Commonly affected areas are upper lips, chin, central chest, midline of the stomach, lower back, buttocks, and front of thighs. Hirsutism affects approximately 10% of women in Western societies and is more common in women of Mediterranean or Middle Eastern descent.

The British Association of Dermatologists advises self-care management, including shaving, waxing, depilatories (hair removal creams) and bleaching creams. For more information, refer to the patient information leaflet on hirsutism from British Association of Dermatologists.

Patients who are not eligible for treatment under this policy may be considered on an individual basis, if their consultant believes there are exceptional circumstances that warrant deviation from the rule of this policy. Applications to be made via the Exceptional funding route including details to show why alternative treatments cannot be sought and what treatment has already been tried.

Reference:	Policy Name	Review Date	Version
BSW-ICB-CP061	Hirsutism - Laser Therapy	March 2024	1