

## BREAST SURGERY - COSMETIC

### EXCEPTIONAL FUNDING REQUIRED

#### General principles

- GPs wishing to seek a consultant opinion on the potential benefit of cosmetic surgery procedure for their patient must first have the agreement of the Individual Funding Request (IFR) Panel, with well-documented supporting evidence for exceptional clinical circumstances.
- If an IFR application is supported and referral for surgical opinion has been agreed, the final decision to proceed with the procedure is led by the clinical specialist.
- The CCG does not normally fund cosmetic procedures solely to improve appearance in the absence of disease, significant congenital deformity, and limitation of function and/or impaired ability to perform activities of daily living. Therefore, cosmetic procedures are interventions not normally funded.
- Assessment of patients being considered for referral to cosmetic surgery who may have an underlying genetic, endocrine, or psychosocial condition should have had this fully investigated by a relevant specialist prior to the referral to plastic surgery being made.
- Psychological distress alone will normally not be accepted as a reason to fund surgery. Clinicians are requested to refer to NICE guideline 31 on 'obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) and Body Dysmorphic Syndrome (BDS)' prior to referring on psychological grounds. <http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CG31>

Referrals within the NHS for the revision of treatments originally performed outside the NHS will not normally be funded. Referrers are encouraged to re-refer to the practitioner who conducted the original treatment.

#### EXAMPLES OF COSMETIC BREAST PROCEDURES NOT NORMALLY FUNDED:

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Mastopexy (breast lifting)       | Breast surgery due to breast asymmetry |
| Corrective surgery of the nipple | Breast reduction (male or female)      |
| Removal of supernumerary nipples | Removal of benign breast lumps         |
| Breast augmentation              |  |

#### REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF BREAST IMPLANTS

**CRITERIA BASED ACCESS:** Where a breast implant has ruptured, it can be removed without prior approval as this is due to a clinical need, not a cosmetic procedure.

**EXCEPTIONAL FUNDING** is required for removal of any contralateral, non-affected implant, or for the replacement of an implant; or where a symptomatic contracture has occurred.

Note that implants placed due to breast cancer are excluded from this policy – refer to the Breast reconstruction policy for details.