

BREAST RECONSTRUCTION POST BREAST CANCER & RISK REDUCTION SURGERY POLICY

(Including additional procedures)

EXCEPTIONAL FUNDING REQUIRED

EFR APPLICATIONS TO BE COMPLETED BY SECONDARY CARE SPECIALIST

Breast reconstruction surgery post breast cancer.

Patients who have been treated for cancer will be provided with reconstruction surgery in line with national guidelines.

The primary surgical breast reconstruction following cancer treatment does not require any funding approval for 5 years after diagnosis. This includes the affected breast and a single surgical procedure to achieve symmetry in the contralateral breast.

- Further surgery to the affected breast after 5 years requires Exceptional Funding Request (EFR) except in cases of grade 3/4 capsule contracture where prior approval **is required**.
- Symmetrising surgery for the contralateral breast after 5 years following initial planned treatment – requires EFR approval.
- Fat transfer procedures (lipofilling) – funding approval not required for up to 2 cycles of fat transfer for the affected breast within the first 5-year period. Further lipofilling or lipofilling after 5 years requires EFR approval.

Risk Reduction Surgery

- Risk reduction surgery is an option for patients with a confirmed high risk of developing breast cancer following genetic counselling/testing - Requires Prior Approval
- For patient at confirmed moderate risk, applications will be considered through the EFR process.
- For patients with low risk, risk reduction surgery is not normally funded.
- Mastectomy for risk reduction, without confirmed high risk status, to a healthy breast on the contra lateral side following a new breast cancer diagnosis is not normally funded and requires EFR approval.