

SNORING

EXCEPTIONAL FUNDING REQUIRED

Treatments for snoring are not normally funded

This policy statement refers to simple snoring i.e., patients who snore but do not experience apnoea or hypopnoea episodes.

Surgical intervention for simple snoring including radiofrequency ablation or laser treatment of the soft palate and soft palate implants are treatments not normally funded by BSW ICB.

Patients complaining of simple snoring should be assessed on the Epworth Sleepiness Scale and where appropriate counselled without referral to secondary care. Advice should be given on the following lifestyle changes where appropriate:

- Weight reduction if above recommended BMI.
- To stop smoking (offer to refer the patient to local stop smoking service).
- Reduce or stop evening alcohol intake. • Keeping the nose clear.
- Obtaining a mandibular advancement device to be worn at night. The NHS does not fund this device.

Information on other anti-snoring devices available in pharmacies can be obtained from NHS Choices <http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Snoring/Pages/Treatment.asp>

Primary care must obtain funding before referring patients to secondary care providers and secondary care providers must satisfy themselves that the patient has funding secured prior to seeing the patient. This is to ensure inappropriate out-patient appointments are avoided and patient expectations are properly managed.