

WIGS, HAIRPIECES AND HAIR TRANSPLANT/REPLACEMENT SYSTEMS POLICY STATEMENT

EXCEPTONAL FUNDING REQUIRED

Policy

Treatments for the correction of male or female pattern baldness, hair transplantation or the use of the 'Interlace' or other hair systems for other causes of hair loss are not normally supported or funded.

Background

Treatments for the correction of male or female pattern baldness are not normally funded as it is a normal process of ageing, and any treatment would be considered cosmetic.

Hair transplantation or the use of 'Interlace' or other hair systems, regardless of gender, for cosmetic reasons are not normally funded.

Treatment for the correction of hair loss is not normally funded and will only be funded where the hair loss is the result of previous surgery or trauma, including burns. Hair pieces and wigs for patients experiencing total or severe hair loss because of alopecia totalis, cancer treatment, previous surgery or trauma are available from local NHS Trusts through commissioned pathways.

Wigs are available from the NHS, but patients will be charged for them unless they qualify for help with charges. Further information is available at.

<http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/Healthcosts/Pages/Wigsandfabricsupports.aspx>

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.