

## **BOTULINUM TOXIN POLICY FOR FOCAL SPASTICITY UPPER LIMB DUE TO STROKE OR NON-STROKE NEUROLOGICAL DISEASE**

### **PRIOR APPROVAL REQUIRED**

#### **Commissioning Policy Introduction**

Botulinum Toxin A is a powerful neurotoxin which is used medically to relax muscles and for certain conditions there are recognised benefits to patients. This document summarises the commissioning status of Botulinum Toxin A for specific medical conditions.

Botulinum Toxin treatment will not be available for the treatment of facial ageing or excessive wrinkles.

NICE clinical guidelines are recommendations by NICE on the appropriate treatment and care of people with specific diseases and conditions within the NHS. They are based on best available evidence. NHS organisations are entitled to take decisions which do not follow Guidance (other than NICE TAs) if they have a good reason to do so. The availability of resources and competing priorities can be a good reason.

#### **Focal Spasticity in Adults**

- Patient is  $\geq 18$  years of age.
- The spasticity has a significant component of focal or multi-focal dynamic spastic muscle component not contracture.
- More than one injection will not be routinely commissioned. Clinicians are asked to submit a request with rationale for on-going injections and evidence of benefit from previous injection.

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.