

## FEMALE GENITAL COSMETIC SURGERY

### EXCEPTIONAL FUNDING REQUIRED

BSW ICB does not normally fund elective vaginal labial surgery, vaginoplasty or hymenorrhaphy.

- Clinicians must ensure there is a clear clinical rationale for any potential intervention, as all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia for non-clinical reasons are defined as Female Genital Mutilation and as such are against the law. (The Female Genital Mutilation Act of 2003)
- Clinicians must be alert to the possibility that some patients who seek revision surgery may do so because of previous interventions which are classed as unlawful under the Act.

#### Background

##### Labiaplasty

A labiaplasty is a surgical procedure to reduce the size of the labia minora. Labiaplasty is a cosmetic procedure to change appearance alone and common consequence of childbirth is not sufficient reason to apply for funding. Labiaplasty is not normally supported or funded by BSW ICB.

##### Vaginoplasty

Non-reconstructive vaginoplasty or "vaginal rejuvenation" is used to restore vaginal tone and appearance. As this is considered a cosmetic procedure, vaginoplasty is not normally supported or funded by BSW ICB.

##### Hymenorrhaphy

Hymenorrhaphy, or hymen reconstruction surgery, is a cosmetic procedure and is not normally supported or funded by BSW ICB.

This policy does not relate to reversal of female genital mutilation.

This policy is informed by NHS England (2013), Interim Clinical Commissioning Policy for: Labiaplasty, Vaginoplasty & Hymenorrhaphy.

(Armed Forces Commissioning Policy Task and Finish Group)

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.