

BENIGN SKIN LESION REMOVAL USING SURGERY, CRYOTHERAPY OR LASER TREATMENT

PRIOR APPROVAL REQUIRED

Policy Statement - Benign Skin Lesions

Removal of benign skin lesions cannot be offered for cosmetic reasons. Removal should only be offered in situations where the lesion is causing symptoms according to the criteria outlined below. Surgery to improve appearance alone is not provided for normal changes such as those associated with aging.

This policy includes but is not limited to the following:

• Actinic keratosis	• Benign pigmented naevi (moles)
• Cysts of Zeis & Moll	• Dermatofibromas
• Benign Lesion of eye lid	• Papilloma's
• Port wine stains	• Sebaceous' cysts (pillar & epidermoid cysts)
• Scars-keloid &hypertrophic	• Warts and plantar warts
• Skin tags to include anal skin tags	• Lipomata (fat deposits beneath the skin)
• Spider naevi	• Telangiectasia
• Thread veins	• Venous flares
• Seborrhic keratosis (benign skin growths, basal cell papilloma's, warts)	
• Xanthelasma (cholesterol deposits underneath the skin)	

If removal of the skin lesion cannot be addressed by the GP practice or PCN's, PRIOR APPROVAL will be required before onward referral.

Requests for removal of benign skin lesions will be considered for funding where the following apply:

- Sebaceous cysts where there has been more than two or more documented episodes of infection, which have required two or more courses of antibiotics. Dates of antibiotic treatment prescribed required as evidence.

OR

- Lesions which cause significant functional impairment* *Significant functional impairment is defined as symptoms preventing the patient fulfilling vital work or educational activities or conducting vital domestic or carer activities

OR

- Lesions on the face where the extent and size of the lesion can be regarded as disfigurement. (Provide photography to demonstrate the level of disfigurement).

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.