

CIRCUMCISION

PRIOR APPROVAL REQUIRED

BSW ICB does not commission Circumcision surgery for personal, social, cultural, or religious reasons and patients or their parents seeking this procedure should not be referred for ICB funded treatment.

BSW ICB does not commission Circumcision surgery for the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases or where a patient is **solely** suffering from pain on arousal or interference with sexual function.

Indications for circumcision

- The one absolute indication for circumcision is scarring of the opening of the foreskin making it non-retractable (pathological phimosis). This is unusual before 5 years of age. The commonest cause is lichen sclerosus (balanitis xerotica obliterans) known as BXO.
- Recurrent, troublesome episodes of infection beneath the foreskin (balanoposthitis) are an occasional indication for circumcision.
- Occasionally specialist paediatric surgeons or urologists may need to perform a circumcision for rare conditions.

The foreskin is still in the process of developing at birth and hence is often non-retractable up to the age of 3 years. The process of separation is spontaneous and does not require manipulation. By 3 years of age, 90% of boys will have a retractable foreskin. In a small proportion of boys this natural process of separation continues to occur well into childhood.

Referrals from primary care for physiological phimosis account for a significant clinical workload in consultation time that could be avoided.

Female Circumcision

Female circumcision or female genital mutilation is prohibited by the law The Prohibition of Female Circumcision Act 1995 and will therefore not be funded by the ICB

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.