

AESTHETIC SURGERY

EXCEPTIONAL FUNDING REQUIRED

Aesthetic Surgeries are cosmetic procedures and will not normally be funded by the ICB.

This guideline is not exhaustive but aims to cover the major aesthetic procedures referred for treatment.

- BSW ICB does not normally fund cosmetic procedures solely to improve appearance in the absence of disease or significant congenital deformity and limitation of function and/or impaired ability to perform activities of daily living.
- GP's wishing to seek a consultant opinion on the potential benefit of a cosmetic surgery procedure for their patient must first have the agreement of the Exceptional Funding Request Panel, with well-documented supporting evidence for exceptional clinical circumstances.
- No referral should be sent directly to a consultant. A Prior approval request must be submitted, and funding approved before a referral is made to secondary care.
- Psychological distress alone will normally not be accepted as a reason to fund surgery. Clinicians should refer to NICE guideline 31 on obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) and Body Dysmorphic Syndrome (BDS) prior to referring on psychological grounds. <http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CG31>
- Referrals within the NHS for the revision of treatments originally performed outside the NHS will not usually be funded. Referrers are encouraged to re-refer to the practitioner who completed the original treatment.
- Assessment of patients considered for referral for cosmetic surgery who may have an underlying genetic, endocrine, or psychosocial condition should have had this fully investigated by a relevant specialist prior to the referral to plastic surgery.

However, in exceptional clinical circumstances funding may be considered. Requests should be made by applying through the Exceptional Funding Request process as outlined in the Exceptional Funding Request policy.

Policy Tattoo - Removal is a cosmetic procedure and is not normally supported or funded. Exceptional Funding required

External ear lobe repairs - Procedures to correct external ear lobe deformities are not normally funded – Exceptional Funding required

Smoking cessation is recommended for all patients considering the possibility of surgery. For help to quit smoking please contact your local Stop Smoking Service or contact your GP Surgery.

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.