

Name of treatment or procedure

Surgical correction of scars

Description of treatment or procedure

This is surgery to correct an existing scar.

Current policy

Funding of treatment will be considered only for scars which cause physical problems following burns, accidents, surgery or abnormal scar tissue (keloid) growth.

Non-core procedure Interim Gender Dysphoria Protocol & Service Guidelines 2013/14:

where the provision of “non-core” surgeries is appropriate, the Gender Identity Clinic (GIC) should apply for treatment funding through the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG); the GIC should work in partnership with the CCG.

Proposed change(s)

The criteria would be made more specific by including 'severe' post-burn or 'severe' traumatic scarring

The reference to gender dysphoria would be removed to avoid confusion.

This service would not be routinely commissioned for children aged under 16 years for cosmetic or psychological reasons.

The Clinical Commissioning Group would fund this revision surgery:

- for severe post burn cases or severe traumatic scarring
- OR
- where the patient is significantly functionally disabled or to restore normal function following complications of surgery, abnormal scar tissue (keloid) growth or other abnormal scar formation.

For patients who do not meet the above criteria, the CCG would only fund the treatment if an Individual Funding Request (IFR) application proved exceptional clinical need and that was supported by the CCG.

Reason for proposed change(s)

To ensure everyone is treated equally.

Additionally, the reference to gender dysphoria protocol would be removed for clarity as patients undergoing gender reassignment will be treated via NHS England, if necessary.

Impact of proposed change(s)

Any patients who request this procedure for psychological or cosmetic reasons would not routinely receive the procedure from the NHS. All patients could still apply for this procedure, with support from their doctor, through an Individual Funding Request to their local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). The CCG panel would consider whether the request could be funded.