

**Name of treatment or procedure**

Surgical removal of minor skin lesions

**Description of treatment or procedure**

The minor skin lesion, which is a lump or bump, such as a mole, cyst, or lipoma, is completely cut off during surgery. The operation is performed using a local anaesthetic, which is injected around the lesion, numbing the area while the patient is awake.

**Current policy**

This procedure will be commissioned in any of the following circumstances:

- Ongoing pain or functional impairment
- Risk of infection
- Significant facial disfigurement
- All vascular lesions on the face except benign, acquired vascular lesions such as thread veins.
- Available to children under 16 for cosmetic or psychological reasons

**Proposed change(s)**

Proposed changes to the criteria include:

- Alignment with other policies
- 'Suspected or proven malignancy (cancer): If suspected or proven malignancy, refer via appropriate route' would be added
- Layout would be simplified and criteria made clearer
- This surgery would only be available for clinical reasons across all age ranges. This means that children under the age of 16 would no longer be able to have rhinoplasty for psychological or cosmetic reasons

**The new policy would read:**

The CCG will only fund this treatment if the patient meets **one** of the following:

- Suspected or proven malignancy (cancer): If suspected or proven malignancy, refer via appropriate route
- Ongoing pain or functional impairment
- Risk of infection
- Significant facial disfigurement
- All vascular lesions on the face except benign, acquired vascular lesions such as thread veins.

For any of these scenarios, referral for treatment should be made to a community organisation providing the service.

**Reason for proposed change(s)**

The criteria would be updated to be more clear. The reference to children under 16 would be removed to ensure everyone was treated equally.

**Impact of proposed change(s)**

This would impact children who may have previously qualified for surgery for cosmetic or psychological reasons. A psychology service would be made available for these patients.

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.