

# BREAST RECONSTRUCTION POST BREAST CANCER & RISK REDUCTION SURGERY POLICY

(including additional procedures)

**EXCEPTIONAL FUNDING/PRIOR APPROVAL REQUIRED WHERE INDICATED-  
IFR APPLICATIONS TO BE COMPLETED BY SECONDARY CARE SPECIALIST**

## Breast reconstruction surgery post breast cancer

Patients who have been treated for cancer will be provided with reconstruction surgery in line with national guidelines.

**The primary surgical breast reconstruction following cancer treatment does not require any funding approval for 5 years after diagnosis. This includes the affected breast and a single surgical procedure to achieve symmetry in the contralateral breast.**

- **Further surgery to the affected breast after 5 years requires Individual Funding Request (IFR) except in cases of grade 3/4 capsule contracture where prior approval is required**
- **Symmetrising surgery for the contralateral breast after 5 years following initial planned treatment – requires IFR approval.**
- **Fat transfer procedures (lipofilling) – funding approval not required for up to 2 cycles of fat transfer for the affected breast within the first 5 year period. Further lipofilling or lipofilling after 5 years requires IFR approval.**

## Risk Reduction Surgery

- Risk reduction surgery is an option for patients with a confirmed high risk of developing breast cancer following genetic counselling/testing- **Requires Prior Approval**
- For patient at confirmed moderate risk, applications will be considered through the IFR process.
- For patients with low risk, risk reduction surgery is not normally funded.
- Mastectomy for risk reduction, without confirmed high risk status, to a healthy breast on the contra lateral side following a new breast cancer diagnosis is **not normally funded and requires IFR approval.**

Reference:	Policy Name	Review Date	Version
BSW-CP026	Breast Reconstruction post cancer	March 2021	3