

## BREAST SURGERY - COSMETIC

### EXCEPTIONAL FUNDING REQUIRED

#### General principles

This guideline represents the current commissioning priorities for NHS Swindon, BaNES and Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). This guideline is not exhaustive but aims to cover the major aesthetic procedures referred for treatment.

- GPs wishing to seek a consultant opinion on the potential benefit of cosmetic surgery procedure for their patient must first have the agreement of the Individual Funding Request (IFR) Panel, with well-documented supporting evidence for exceptional clinical circumstances.
- If IFR application is supported and referral for surgical opinion has been agreed the final decision to proceed with the procedure is led by clinical the specialist.
- The CCG does not normally fund cosmetic procedures solely to improve appearance in the absence of disease, significant congenital deformity and limitation of function and/or impaired ability to perform activities of daily living. Therefore cosmetic procedures are interventions not normally funded.
- Assessment of patients being considered for referral to 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 being made.
- Psychological distress alone will normally not be accepted as a reason to fund surgery. Clinicians are requested to 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 normally be funded. Referrers are encouraged to re-refer to the practitioner who carried out the original treatment.

#### Examples of cosmetic breast procedures not normally funded:

- Mastopexy (breast lifting).
- Corrective surgery of the nipple
- Removal of supernumary nipples
- Breast augmentation
- Breast surgery due breast asymmetry
- Breast reduction male or female
- Removal of benign breast lumps
- Removal and replacement of breast implants