

TONSILLECTOMY – CHILDREN & ADULTS

CRITERIA BASED ACCESS for the following indications only:

- Peritonsillar abscess (quinsy)

PRIOR APPROVAL REQUIRED

Prior Approval is required prior to referral for the following:

- Sore throats due to acute recurrent tonsillitis where the episodes are disabling and cause significant functional impairment.

WITH

- Seven or more well documented clinically significant, adequately treated sore throats in one year.

OR

- Five or more such episodes in each of the preceding 2 years

OR

- Three or more such episodes in each of the preceding 3 years

Clinical details to be included in the prior approval submission.

- Obstructive sleep disordered breathing in children:
 - Diagnosed clinically (documented impact on development, behaviour and quality of life e.g. height and weight, hyperactivity, daytime somnolence, nasal obstruction and size of tonsils and role of obesity) or if necessary, demonstrated by sleep study

Children with simple snoring without symptoms or signs of apnoea are unlikely to benefit from adeno-tonsillectomy.

For tonsillectomy there is good evidence addressing effectiveness; but limited evidence in adults.

Significant functional impairment is defined as:

Symptoms preventing the patient fulfilling activities of daily living or educational responsibilities

Tonsillectomy procedures are not normally commissioned for tonsil stones or halitosis alone.

Fast track referral for specialist assessment and investigation for malignancy (which may include tonsillectomy for biopsy) is not restricted by this policy and does not require prior approval.

Reference:	Policy Name	Review Date	Version
BSW-CP005	Tonsillectomy – Children & Adults	March 2021	4