

CIRCUMCISION

PRIOR APPROVAL REQUIRED

Criteria to Access Treatment

The CCG **does not** commission Circumcision surgery for personal, social, cultural or religious reasons and patients or their parents seeking this procedure should not be referred for CCG funded treatment.

The CCG **does not** commission Circumcision surgery for the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases or where a patient is **solely** suffering from pain on arousal or interference with sexual function.

Indications for circumcision

- The one absolute indication for circumcision is scarring of the opening of the foreskin making it non-retractable (pathological phimosis). This is unusual before 5 years of age. The commonest cause is lichen sclerosus (balanitis xerotica obliterans) known as BXO.
- Recurrent, troublesome episodes of infection beneath the foreskin (balanoposthitis) are an occasional indication for circumcision.
- Occasionally specialist paediatric surgeons or urologists may need to perform a circumcision for some rare conditions.

The foreskin is still in the process of developing at birth and hence is often non-retractable up to the age of 3 years. The process of separation is spontaneous and does not require manipulation. By 3 years of age, 90% of boys will have a retractable foreskin. In a small proportion of boys this natural process of separation continues to occur well into childhood.

Referrals from primary care for physiological phimosis account for a significant clinical workload in consultation time that could be avoided.

Foreskin conditions – commissioning guide found here:

[file:///C:/Users/NF003/Downloads/Foreskin%20Conditions%20%20Commissioning%20Guide%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/NF003/Downloads/Foreskin%20Conditions%20%20Commissioning%20Guide%20(1).pdf)

Female Circumcision

Female circumcision or female genital mutilation is prohibited by the law The Prohibition of Female Circumcision Act 1995 and will therefore not be funded by the CCG.

Reference:	Policy Name	Review Date	Version
BSW-CP013	Circumcision	March 2025	2