

BENIGN SKIN LESION REMOVAL USING SURGERY OR LASER TREATMENT. ALSO INCLUDES PLASTICS PROCEDURES

PRIOR APPROVAL REQUIRED

If there is any uncertainty whether the lesion may be malignant in nature, refer your patient via the 2 week wait referral route. This refers to suspected Squamous Cell Carcinoma and Malignant Melanoma lesions. Basal Cell Carcinoma's refer via the B&NES Community BCC Service Referral Form

Policy Statement – Benign Skin Lesions

Removal of benign skin lesion cannot be offered for cosmetic reasons. It should only be offered in situations where the lesion is causing symptoms according to the criteria outlined on the following page. Surgery to improve appearance alone is not provided for normal changes such as those due to aging.

This policy is applicable to:

- Actinic keratosis
- Benign pigmented naevi (moles)
- Cysts of Zeiss & Moll
- Dermatofibromas (skin growths)
- Granulomatous skin lesion
- Keloid scarring
- Lesion of eye lid including Pterygiums and other eyelid lesions. For Chalazion, refer to separate policy
- Milia
- Naevi and other benign haemangiomas
- Papillomas
- Rosacea
- Scars - keloid & hypertrophic
- Sebaceous cysts (pillar & epidermoid cysts) – unless on the face and greater than 1 cm in diameter OR 2 or more infections treated with antibiotics
- Seborrhoeic keratosis (benign skin growths, basal cell papillomas, warts)
- Skin tags to include anal skin tags
- Spider naevi
- Telangiectasia
- Thread veins
- Venous flares
- Viral Warts including plantar warts
- Xanthelasma (cholesterol deposits underneath the skin)

Policy Statement - Plastics

BaNES CCG commissions the use of plastic procedures where clinically appropriate for the following conditions:

- Burns
- Congenital abnormalities (e.g. cleft lip and palate, hypospadias, hamartoma)
- Disfiguring facial lesions
- Endocrine disease complications
- Haemangioma
- Lipomata – only treat if severely functionally disabling OR subject to repeated trauma OR rapidly growing or abnormally located, OR lesion over 5cms
- Neurological conditions (e.g. Bell's Palsy)
- Port Wine Stains – which are on the head and neck and are considered to be large and facially disfiguring
- Skin Damage (e.g. pressure sores)
- Tissue Infection
- Trauma (particularly associated with impaired physical function)

If the removal of a symptomatic benign skin lesion cannot be carried out in primary care, at a GP Practice then PRIOR APPROVAL is required for onward referral to Secondary Care.

Requests for the removal of benign skin lesions will be considered for funding for the following:

- The lesion is unavoidably and significantly traumatised on a regular basis with evidence of this causing regular bleeding OR resulting in infections such that the patient requires 2 or more courses of antibiotics. Dates of antibiotic treatment required as evidence.

OR

- Lesions which cause significant functional impairment on a patient's Activities of Daily Living. BaNES CCG defines significant functional impairment as symptoms preventing the patient fulfilling vital work or educational activities or carrying out vital domestic or carer activities.

OR

- Lesions on the face where the extent and size of the lesion can be regarded as disfigurement. (Provide photography to demonstrate the level of disfigurement)

CRYOTHERAPY

Policy Statement:

BaNES CCG commissions the use of cryotherapy in the Community Dermatology clinic for the:

- Treatment of suitable Actinic Keratoses including hyperkeratotic Actinic Keratoses and Actinic Keratoses where other factors limit treatment options
- Treatment of Bowen's disease or superficial BCCs if clinically appropriate

An IFR application does not need to be completed for a referral to the Community Dermatology Clinic for the above conditions. If an onward referral to Secondary Care is required then a Prior Approval IFR application will need to be completed.

Smoking cessation is strongly recommended for all patients considering the possibility of surgery. For help to quit smoking please contact your local Stop Smoking Service or contact your GP surgery.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/>

<https://www.bathandnortheastsomersetccg.nhs.uk/documents/what-we-do-and-dont-fund>

IFR Patient Information Leaflet

<https://www.bathandnortheastsomersetccg.nhs.uk/assets/uploads/2018/12/IFR-Leaflet-2018.pdf>