

Laser eye surgery for refractive error Exceptional Funding Request

Laser surgery to correct refractive error (short or long sight) is not routinely commissioned

Before consideration of referral for management in secondary care, please review advice on the Remedy website (www.remedy.bnssgicc.nhs.uk/) or consider use of advice and guidance services where available

If the patient in question is clinically exceptional compared to the cohort, then an Exceptional Funding Application may be appropriate. The only time when an EFR application should be submitted is when there is a strong argument for clinical exceptionality to be made. EFR applications will only be considered where evidence of clinical exceptionality is provided within the case history/primary care notes in conjunction with a fully populated EFR application form.

BNSSG ICB is responsible for making the best use of the NHS funds allocated to us to meet the health needs of our local population. The demand for services is greater than the resources available and therefore we have to prioritise the use of funds carefully. Our approach is to prioritise commissioning treatments, operations or drugs that are most effective in meeting the health needs of the population. All operations carry significant risks and where symptoms are mild or moderate it is likely that the risks outweigh the benefits. Not all conditions progress and when symptoms can be managed conservatively, that is the safest option.

Laser eye surgery for refractive error– Plain Language

Summary

Short-sightedness, or myopia, is a very common eye condition that causes distant objects to appear blurred, while close objects can be seen clearly. Short sight is usually managed by using either glasses or contact lenses. (NHS Website, 2018)

Long-sightedness, also known as hyperopia, affects a person's ability to see objects close to them. Vision problems such as long-sightedness are often referred to as refractive errors. If you are long-sighted, you will usually be able to see distant objects clearly, but

nearby objects will be out of focus. Long-sightedness is often corrected using either glasses or contact lenses. (NHS Website, 2019)

There are three types of laser surgery that are used as surgical treatment for short and long sightedness: Photorefractive keratectomy (PRK); laser epithelial keratomileusis (LASEK); and laser in situ keratectomy (LASIK). Laser surgery isn't usually available on the NHS because other treatments, such as glasses or contact lenses, are considered to be equally – if not more – effective. (NHS Website, 2018)

This policy has been developed with the aid of the following:

1. Laser eye surgery and lens surgery - NHS (www.nhs.uk)

Due regard

In carrying out their functions, the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Clinical Policy Review Group (CPRG) are committed to having due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). This applies to all the activities for which the ICB are responsible, including policy development and review.

Document Control

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Governance

Commissioning policies are assessed for their likely level of impact on BNSSG ICB and the population for which it is responsible. This determines the appropriate level of sign off. The below described the approval route for each score category.

Policy Category	Approval By
Level 1	Commissioning Policy Review Group.
Level 2	Chief Medical Officer, or Chief Nursing Officer, or System Executive Group Chair
Level 3	ICB Board

OPCS Procedure codes

Must have any of (primary only): C442,C444,C445

Support

If you would like further copies of this policy or need it in another format, such as Braille or another language, please contact the Customer Services Team on: **0117 900 2655** or **0800 073 0907** or email them on BNSSG.customerservice@nhs.net.