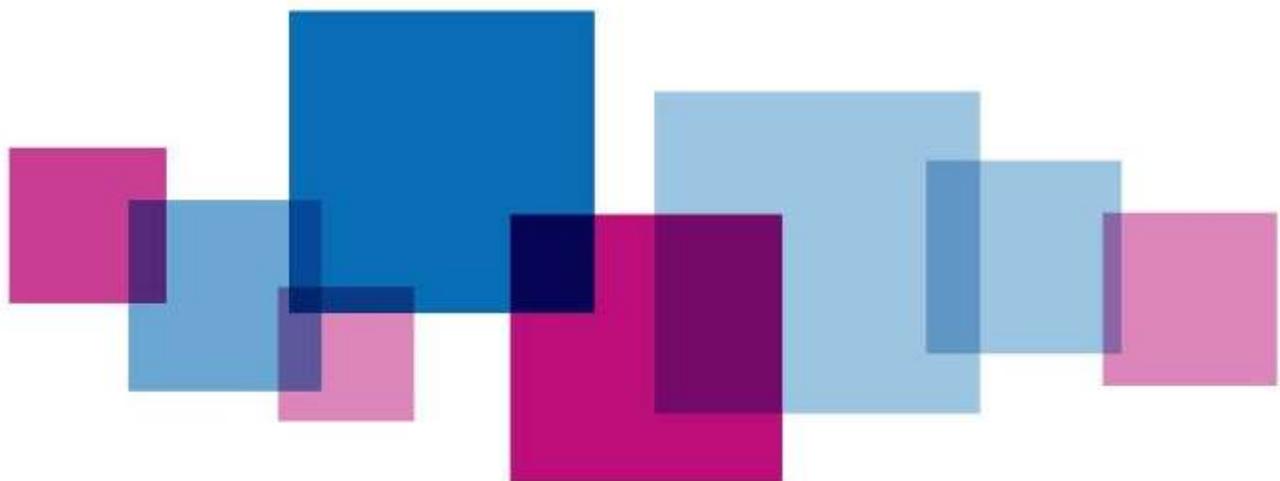


# Commissioning Policy

## Skin Camouflage Services

**Prior Approval**



**Date Adopted: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019**

**Version: 1819.2.00**

## Document Control

<b>Title of document:</b>	Skin Camouflage Policy
<b>Authors job title(s):</b>	IFR Manager
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<b>Equality Impact Assessment Screening (date completed):</b>	01/06/2018

## Version control

Version	Date	Reviewer	Comment
1819.1.00 DRAFT	01/06/2018	IFR Manager	Rebranded and updated to include BNSSG JFG guidance regarding Masking Cream
1819.1.00 DRAFTv4	25/06/2018	IFR Coordinator	Amendments made following discussion at CPRG Meeting 1.
1819.2.00	01/10/2018	IFR Coordinator	Smoking and BMI references updated following Sept CPRG and PALS info updated

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**TREATMENT UNDER THIS POLICY REQUIRES PRIOR APPROVAL FROM THE ICB'S  
INDIVIDUAL FUNDING TEAM**

**THIS POLICY RELATES TO ALL PATIENTS**

## **Skin Camouflage Services**

### **General Principles**

**Funding approval will only be given in line with these general principles. Where patients are unable to meet these principles in addition to the specific treatment criteria set out in this policy, funding approval will not be given.**

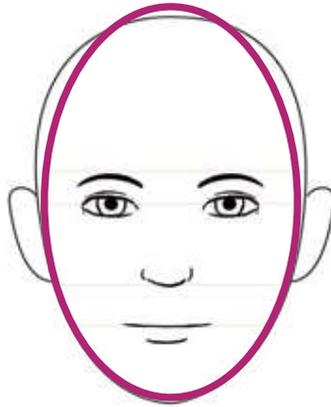
1. The ICB does not commission surgery for cosmetic purposes alone (Cosmetic Surgery NHS Choices ).
2. Funding approval must be secured by the patient's treating clinician prior to referring patients for surgical opinions. Referring patients to secondary care without funding approval having been secured not only incurs significant costs in out-patient appointments for patients that may not qualify for surgery, but inappropriately raises the patient's expectation of treatment.
3. On limited occasions, the ICB may approve funding for an assessment only in order to confirm or obtain evidence demonstrating whether a patient meets the criteria for funding. In such cases, patients should be made aware that the assessment does not mean that they will be provided with surgery and surgery will only be provided where it can be demonstrated that the patient meets the criteria to access treatment in this policy.
4. Funding approval will only be given where there is evidence that the treatment requested is effective and the patient has the potential to benefit from the proposed treatment. Where it is demonstrated that patients have previously been provided with the treatment with limited or diminishing benefit, funding approval is unlikely to be agreed.
5. Patients with an elevated BMI of 30 or more may experience more post-surgical complications including post-surgical wound infection so should be encouraged to lose weight further prior to seeking surgery.  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1198743X15007193>(Thelwall, 2015)
6. Patients who are smokers should be referred to smoking cessation services in order to reduce the risk of surgery and improve healing. (ASH, 2016)
7. In applying this policy, all clinicians and those involved in making decisions affecting patient care will pay due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation, etc., and will advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. In particular, due regard will be paid in relation to the following characteristics protected by the Equality Act 2010: age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

## Background and Scope

Patients with disfiguring facial scars, birthmarks and other skin conditions may wish to disguise these conditions with skin camouflage products and advice from Skin Camouflage clinics in acute trust hospitals.

At these clinics, trained staff work with patients to find the most appropriate products for their specific condition, and to provide advice and the best method of application of the products.

This scope of this policy is limited to **facial** disfigurements only. The facial area is considered to be the area between the forehead and chin only and **does not include the ears, below the chin or the neck area.**



**Please note that concerns with other areas of the body do not fall within the scope of this policy and are not routinely funded.**

## Changing Faces

Alternative services are provided in the community by charitable organisations such as that provided by Changing Faces at local clinics in Bristol and Taunton as well as other centres close to the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) area.

Changing Faces supports people who have any condition or injury that affects their appearance by giving advice on camouflage products. Patients from the BNSSG area can refer themselves to the service for an initial consultation. This is routinely funded by the NHS and does not require an application form, or a GP referral.

Further information, including details of the services offered, clinic locations and how to make an appointment, are available on their website at: <https://www.changingfaces.org.uk/Home>

Patients can also choose to self-fund appointments and services at the camouflage clinic at North Bristol NHS Trust as an alternative to accessing treatment from Changing Faces.

## **Skin Camouflage Products and Masking Creams**

You can buy make-up that's specially designed for covering scars from pharmacies. It can be particularly useful for facial scars.

If you have a large area of skin to cover, the skin camouflage service run by the Changing Faces charity (see above) may be able to help.

Fully trained skin camouflage practitioners will be able to find a good colour match for your skin tone and teach you how to apply the make-up. It's waterproof and can stay in place for two or three days.

Please note, however, that these products are not routinely available on the NHS and therefore cannot be prescribed by skin clinics, Changing Faces or your GP.

Camouflage clinics are able to direct patients to obtain these privately if they choose to do so.

## **Silicone Products**

Silicone gels or sheets can be used on healing skin (not open wounds) to help soften and flatten a scar. They can also relieve itching and discomfort.

To be effective, silicone gels or sheets should be placed over the scar for 12 hours a day for at least three months. They can be washed and reused.

Ask your GP, dermatologist or pharmacist if they can recommend a suitable silicone-based scar treatment for you.

<b>POLICY CRITERIA – COMMISSIONED</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PRIOR APPROVAL REQUIRED</b></p> <p>Funding approval for <b>one</b> advice session within an acute trust Skin Camouflage Clinic will be given where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The patient is suffering from significant facial* disfigurement.</li></ol> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>2. The deformity is capable of being camouflaged, disguised or minimised with camouflage products.</li></ol> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>3. The patient has accessed services provided in the community without any benefit (a report from the Service setting out why they have been unable to benefit the patient will aid decision making).</li></ol> <p>Patients with funding approval will receive advice from Skin Camouflage Services on techniques and products to use to manage their disfigurement.</p>
<p><b>Exclusions:</b> * Funding will not be approved where disfigurement is not on the face.</p>
<p><b>It is important to note that camouflage products and creams are not routinely available on prescription in BNSSG these products must be self-funded.</b></p>

Patients who are not eligible for treatment under this policy may be considered on an individual basis where their GP or consultant believes exceptional circumstances exist that warrant deviation from the rule of this policy.

Individual cases will be reviewed at the ICB’s Individual Funding Panel upon receipt of a completed application form from the patient’s GP, Consultant or Clinician. Applications cannot be considered from patients personally.

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](mailto:BNSSG.customerservice@nhs.net).

### Connected Policies

- Cosmetic Surgery or Treatment
- Tattoo Policy
- Benign Skin Lesion (including Keloid Scarring)

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

Ash. (2016). *Ash.org.uk*. Retrieved Sept 24, 2018, from [www.ash.org.uk/briefings](http://www.ash.org.uk/briefings)

Camouflage, T. B. (n.d.). <http://www.skin-camouflage.net/>. Retrieved June 01, 2018, from <http://www.skin-camouflage.net/>

Changing Faces. (n.d.). *Skin Camouflage Service*. Retrieved from Changing Faces: <https://www.changingfaces.org.uk/skin-camouflage>

Cosmetic Surgery NHS Choices . (n.d.). *Is cosmetic surgery available on the NHS?* Retrieved June 2018, from NHS Choices: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/cosmetic-treatments/is-cosmetic-surgery-available-on-the-nhs/>

Mayo Clinic. (2014, September 12). *Cosmetic Surgery Risks*. Retrieved November 16, 2015, from Mayo Clinic: <http://www.mayoclinic.org/tests-procedures/cosmetic-surgery/basics/risks/prc-20022389>

North Bristol Trust. (n.d.). *Skin camouflage service*. Retrieved from North Bristol Trust: <https://www.nbt.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/filedepot/incoming/Skin%20camouflage.pdf>

Tattoo Removal - NHS Choices. (n.d.). *Can I get my tattoo removed on the NHS?* Retrieved 05 30, 2018, from <https://www.nhs.uk/chq/Pages/2567.aspx?CategoryID=68&SubCategoryID=154>

Thelwall, S. P. (2015). Impact of obesity on the risk of wound infection following surgery: results from a nationwide prospective multicentre cohort study in England. *Clinical microbiology and infection : the official publication of the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases*, vol. 21, no. 11, p. 1008.e1.

University Hospital Bristol. (n.d.). *Camouflage clinic*. Retrieved from University Hospital Bristol: <http://www.uhbristol.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/your-hospitals/bristol-royal-infirmary/what-we-do/dermatology/camouflage-clinic/>

### OPCS Procedure codes – For completion at a later date

<b>To be completed</b>	