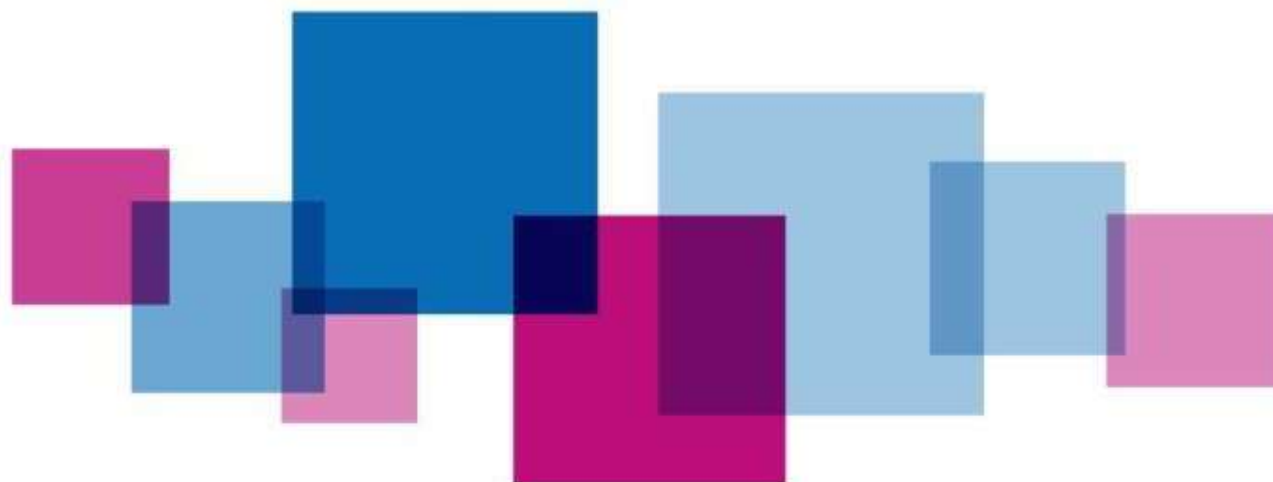


Commissioning Policy

Wigs, Hairpieces and Hair Replacement Systems



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Document Control

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Version Control

Version	Date	Reviewer	Comment
1718.2.01	28/03/2018	IFR Coordinator	Rebranded to BNSSG CCG
1819.2.00	26/10/2018	Commissioning Policy Development Support Officer	Smoking and BMI references updated, BNSSG branding refreshed, PALS update. Approved on 14 th February 2019 by Commissioning Executive.

**THIS TREATMENT IS NOT ROUTINELY COMMISSIONED FOR ANY PATIENTS AND
EXCEPTIONAL FUNDING PANEL APPROVAL MUST BE SOUGHT PRIOR TO
REFERRAL**

THIS POLICY RELATES TO ALL PATIENTS

Wigs, Hairpieces and Hair Replacement Systems Policy

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. Funding approval must be secured by primary care prior to referring patients for assessment. 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.
2. 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 patients meets the criteria to access treatment in this policy.
3. Where funding approval is given by the Exceptional Funding Panel, it will be available for a specified period of time, normally one year.
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., 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.

POLICY CRITERIA – NOT COMMISSIONED

EXCEPTIONAL FUNDING PANEL APPROVAL REQUIRED

BNSSG ICB offers treatment for the correction of hair loss where the hair loss is the result of previous surgery or trauma, including burns (e.g. reconstruction of the eyebrow following cancer or trauma).

Hair pieces and wigs for patients experiencing total or severe hair loss as a result of alopecia totalis, cancer treatment, previous surgery or trauma are available from local *NHS Trusts through commissioned pathways*.

Type of Wigs

Wigs are usually made from washable mono-acrylic material and patients can be prescribed up to 2 wigs per annum. Human hair wigs are not prescribed on the NHS unless the patient is allergic to acrylic wigs or has a skin condition that will be made worse by an acrylic wig.

BNSSG ICB does not commission treatments for the correction of male or female pattern baldness as it is a normal process of ageing and any treatment would be considered cosmetic.

For other causes of hair loss, **BNSSG ICB does not routinely commission** hair transplantation or the use of the 'Interlace' or other hair systems, regardless of gender, for cosmetic reasons.

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 Exceptional 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

Connected Policies

N/A

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: www.ash.org.uk/briefings
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.

OPCS Procedure codes – For completion at a later date
