

**Closure of Patent Foramen Ovale for Migraine**  
**Exceptional Funding Request**  
**All Patients**

<p><b>POLICY CRITERIA – NOT COMMISSIONED</b></p> <p><b>EXCEPTIONAL FUNDING PANEL APPROVAL REQUIRED</b></p>
<p>Closure of Patent Foramen Ovale for Migraine is not routinely commissioned.</p> <p>For guidance please see <a href="https://remedy.bnssgccg.nhs.uk/">https://remedy.bnssgccg.nhs.uk/</a></p>

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.

Current evidence on the efficacy of percutaneous closure of patent foramen ovale (PFO) for recurrent migraine is inadequate in quality and quantity. The evidence on safety shows a small incidence of well-recognised but sometimes serious adverse events, including device embolisation and device prolapse (each reported in less than 1% of patients). In accordance with the NICE guidance, this procedure should only be used with special arrangements for clinical governance, consent and audit or research.

## **Closure of Patent Foramen Ovale for migraine – Plain Language**

### **Summary**

The foramen ovale is a hole in the wall that divides the two upper chambers of the heart. The hole is present in the heart of a developing foetus, but normally closes up soon after the baby is born. If it fails to close it is known as a patent foramen ovale (PFO). In most people, this doesn't cause any problems but some studies have suggested that there could be a link between having a PFO and recurrent migraines. This procedure involves passing a device through a large vessel in the groin up into the heart and closing/blocking the hole in the wall of the heart.

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

1. NICE (2010) Interventional Procedures Guidance IPG370: Percutaneous closure of patent foramen ovale for recurrent migraine: [www.nice.org.uk](http://www.nice.org.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), and NHSE Evidence-Based Interventions (EBI). This applies to all the activities for which the CCGs are responsible, including policy development and review.

## Document Control

<b>Title of document:</b>	Closure of Patent Foramen Ovale for Migraine
<b>Authors job title(s):</b>	Policy Development Support Officer
<b>Document version:</b>	2021.04.01
<b>Supersedes:</b>	1819.2.00
<b>Clinical Engagement received from:</b>	Cardiologists at University hospital Bristol and Weston and North Bristol NHS Trust were approached for feedback
<b>Discussion and Approval by Clinical Policy Review Group (CPRG):</b>	April 2021
<b>Discussion and Approval by CCG Commissioning Executive:</b>	May 2021
<b>Date of Adoption:</b>	
<b>Publication/issue date:</b>	
<b>Review due date:</b>	Earliest of either NICE publication or three years from approval.
<b>Equality Impact Assessment Screening (date completed):</b>	20.04.21
<b>Quality Impact Assessment Screening (date completed):</b>	30.04.21
<b>Patient and Public Involvement</b>	20.04.21

## OPCS Procedure codes

Must have any of (primary only): K165.

## Support

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