

Cosmetic Contact Lenses Exceptional Funding Request

The provision of cosmetic or zero-powered or 'plano cosmetic' contact lens or lenses in order to manage concerns with the cosmetic appearance of an eyeball either due to congenital, acquired/traumatic reasons or fashionable concerns are **not** routinely commissioned.

Before consideration of referral for management in secondary care, please review advice on the Remedy website (www.remedy.bnssgccg.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.

Cosmetic contact lenses– Plain Language Summary

Patients can be concerned with the cosmetic appearance of their eye either due to congenital deformity or acquired/traumatic injury. Cosmetic or zero-powered or 'plano cosmetic' contact lenses (non-corrective contact lenses designed to change the colour or appearance of the eye) are effective for changing eye colour and appearance, and are also used in various therapeutic applications such as masking disfigured eyes; e.g. they can be used to mask the

misaligned direction of the eyeball caused by exotropia or amblyopia or can also be used to mask conditions such as inoperable Cataracts, Coats disease or Heterochromia.

In addition, there has been a significant increase in wearing cosmetic contact lenses being worn purely for fashion purposes in recent years.

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

1. [Cosmetic contact lenses \(bcla.org.uk\)](http://bcla.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). 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): TBC

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.