

Reference: FOI.ICB-2324/415

Subject: Criteria for Keloid Scar Excision

*I can confirm that the ICB does hold some of the information requested; please see responses below:*

QUESTION	RESPONSE
1. Please state the name of your ICB	Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board (BNSSG ICB)
2. Does surgery for keloid scars require funding approval in your ICB? Yes No Other...	Yes
3. If funding approval is required, is this sought through a: i. Prior approval process (i.e. defined criteria must be met) ii. An individual funding request iii. Other...	Individual Funding Request
4. How many applications for keloid scar excision surgery did you receive within your ICB in 2023?	24

5. Relating to question 3, how many applications were approved?	The number of patients is less than 5; therefore they have not been included as this could potentially make the patients identifiable.
6. Relating to question 3 and 4, what were the anatomical locations of all the applications that were received? Please provide a breakdown according to the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Face</li><li>b. Ear</li><li>c. Trunk</li><li>d. Upper limb</li><li>e. Lower limb</li></ul>	Ear 10 Lower limb 1 Trunk 13
7. Relating to question 3 and 4, what were the anatomical locations of all the applications that were approved? Please provide a breakdown according to the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Face</li><li>b. Ear</li><li>c. Trunk</li><li>d. Upper limb</li><li>e. Lower limb</li></ul>	Ear - the number of patients is less than 5; therefore they have not been included as this could potentially make the patients identifiable.
8. Relating to question 3, how many cases were declined?	23

<p>9. Relating to question 7, what were the reasons for declining the requests? Please provide a breakdown according to the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. Not causing a functional impairment</li><li>ii. Not causing symptoms</li><li>iii. Considered cosmetic</li><li>iv. Case not considered “exceptional”</li><li>v. Other (please specify)</li></ul>	<p>Our cosmetic surgery policy* includes keloid scarring. All cosmetic surgery applications require exceptional (individual) funding. Therefore, all declined cases will be either because no case was made for clinical exceptionality, or that clinical exceptionality was not demonstrated.</p> <p>*<a href="https://bnssg.icb.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Go-Live-01.11.23-Cosmetic-Surgery-Policy-v2324.2.00.pdf">https://bnssg.icb.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Go-Live-01.11.23-Cosmetic-Surgery-Policy-v2324.2.00.pdf</a></p>
<p>10. If you cannot provide a breakdown for cases, please tick the reason(s) that most commonly apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Not causing a functional impairment</li><li>• Not causing symptoms</li><li>• Considered cosmetic</li><li>• Case not considered “exceptional”</li><li>• Other (please specify)</li></ul>	<p>See above</p>
<p>11. With regard to all funding applications your ICB has received, please provide an overall breakdown of the ethnicity of these patients. If you do not have data regarding ethnicity, answers can be based on visual impression of the Fitzpatrick skin types*.</p>	<p>We do not hold ethnicity information, furthermore, photographs are not always provided with applications.</p>
<p>Please consider the following hypothetical case, as though it were a real application, and indicate your response:</p>	

<p>12.</p> <p>27 year old woman Fit and healthy No past medical history No drug history No allergies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 5 years history of large keloid on right ear lobule from an ear piercing</li><li>- Stable in size for 4 years, no spontaneous improvement</li><li>- Has had a course of intra-lesional steroid injections at another facility 2 years ago with no improvement</li><li>- No previous surgery</li><li>- Causing embarrassment social withdrawal, and persistent pruritis, as well as discomfort when lying down</li><li>- On examination: 4x3cm, firm, slightly tender, right ear lobule keloid scar</li><li>- No other keloid scarring elsewhere</li></ul> <p>Secondary care plastic surgery consultant is requesting approval for excision under local anaesthesia, 30 minutes day case procedure. Intended as a single surgical episode, with the likelihood of adjuvant steroid injections performed in the outpatient clinic during the follow-up period.</p> <p><b>Please advise if this case would be approved.</b></p>	<p>The FOI Act allows for the public to request information held by the ICB, the information requested is hypothetical and therefore this information is not held by the ICB.</p>
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Yes	
No	
Other...	
13. If no, please indicate reasoning below.	<p>NB if your policy is for such cases to only be considered following an IFR request, please state this below. In such cases, we will provide a completed IFR form and would be grateful if this could be considered according to your usual protocol.</p> <p>The FOI Act allows for the public to request information held by the ICB, the information requested is hypothetical and therefore this information is not held by the ICB.</p>

***The information provided in this response is accurate as of 19 February 2024 and has been approved for release by Rosi Shepherd, Chief Nursing Officer for NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB.***

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## The Fitzpatrick Scale



### Type 1

Light, Pale White  
Always burns, Never tans



### Type 2

White, Fair  
Usually Burns,  
Tans with difficulty



### Type 3

Medium,  
White to Olive  
Sometimes mild burns,  
gradually tans to Olive



### Type 4

Olive,  
Moderate Brown  
Rarely burns, Tans with  
ease to a Moderate Brown



### Type 5

Brown,  
Dark Brown  
Very rarely burns,  
Tans very easily



### Type 6

Black, Very dark  
Brown to Black  
Never burns, Tans Very  
easily, Deeply Pigmented