

Female Genitalia Surgery Exceptional Funding Request

Before consideration of referral for management in secondary care, please review advice on the Remedy website (www.remedy.bnssg.icb.nhs.uk/) or consider use of advice and guidance services where available.

Female Genitalia Surgery

Female Genitalia Surgery is not routinely commissioned.

This includes but is not limited to:

- Labiaplasty
- Vaginoplasty
- Hymenorrhaphy

Please note:

- Chronically symptomatic (defined as over 6 months persistent symptoms) Bartholin Cyst is routinely funded.
- Vaginal repair following delivery is routinely commissioned.
- Vulval surgery for conditions causing significant pain or dysfunction directly related to childbirth are routinely commissioned.

Bristol North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board (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.

Patients who are unhappy with their appearance to an extreme degree may be said to suffer from body dysmorphia and so may wish to be considered for a referral to commissioned mental health services to support them in managing their underlying condition. Many women seeking labiaplasty do not have a psychiatric condition but do have psychological distress. Surgery is not commissioned to manage these situations.

Patients with conditions related to female genital mutilation can be directly referred from The Rose Clinic.

Female Genitalia- Plain Language Summary

Labiaplasty is a cosmetic procedure for altering the folds of skin surrounding the human vulva. Vaginoplasty is a procedure that aims to "tighten up" a vagina that has become loose. Hymenorrhaphy, or hymen reconstruction surgery, is the surgical restoration of the hymen. Scar tissue related to childbirth For a few women, excessive, raised or itchy scar tissue forms around the place where a tear happened or where an episiotomy was performed. A small operation can be carried out to remove the scar tissue. This is done at least six months after childbirth, when the tissues have healed from the stretching, bruising and tearing. This is commissioned as described in the policy. The operation involves neatly cutting out the scar tissue and sewing together the clean-cut edges with small stitches.

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

1. National Health Service (2019) Health A to Z: Cosmetic procedures: Labiaplasty www.nhs.uk/conditions.
2. National Health Service (2019) Health A to Z: Bartholins cyst. www.nhs.uk/conditions.

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 ICBs are responsible, including policy development and review.

OPCS Procedure codes

Must have any of (primary only):

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.

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