

Wigs, Hairpieces and Hair Replacement Systems

Exceptional Funding Request

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.

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.

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.

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.

NOTE

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.

Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board

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

Wigs, Hairpieces and Hair Replacement Systems – Plain Language Summary

A wig is a covering for the head made from real or artificial hair. It is used to hide baldness or losing of hair. Generally, the NHS only funds wigs using synthetic 'hair'.

There are a small number of treatments, conditions or traumas that can cause hair loss. Some of these circumstances might cause complete hair loss or thinning. During treatment that causes hair loss, a healthcare professional might discuss with the patient how they can obtain a wig. There are several NHS approved suppliers of wigs. Healthcare professionals will be able to signpost patients to the most appropriate source.

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

1. 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.

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 CCGs 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

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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.