

Reference: FOI. ICB-2526/317

Subject: NHS Funding Criteria for Hand Surgery Procedures with Cosmetic or Functional Indications

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

QUESTION	RESPONSE
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do you either routinely fund, or provide criteria-based access to funding for any hand surgery procedures that may be considered partly aesthetic (e.g. removal of benign lumps, ganglion cysts, Dupuytren's contracture with mild deformity, trigger finger release or scar revision)? 2. If you do provide criteria-based access, please provide details of the criteria, or indicate where this information can be found. 3. Are there specific conditions or functional thresholds that must be met before funding is approved (e.g. pain, impairment of hand function, or occupational impact)? 4. Is prior approval required before listing patients for such procedures? 5. How long has the current policy been in place, and are there any planned or pending changes to this policy? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes 2. All relevant policies can be found within BNSSG's commissioning policy directory, on our website at: Commissioning Policy Directory - BNSSG Healthier Together 3. Please refer to the individual policies which can be found at: Commissioning Policy Directory - BNSSG Healthier Together 4. Where a commissioning policy is in place, funding approval is required before listing any patient for surgery. 5. All commissioning policies are reviewed every five years.

The information provided in this response is accurate as of 16 December 2025 and has been approved for release by Dr Joanne Medhurst, Chief Medical Officer for NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB.