

**Name of treatment or procedure**

Laser tattoo removal

**Description of treatment or procedure**

Laser tattoo removal uses laser surgery to attempt to remove unwanted tattoos.

**Current policy**

Tattoo removal will only be commissioned in any of the following circumstances:

- The tattoo is a result of trauma inflicted against the patient's will
- The patient was a child and not responsible for his/her actions at the time they received the tattoo
- The patient was pressured into receiving the tattoo.
- The patient received the tattoo during adolescence or disturbed periods. The procedure will only be commissioned on this basis in very exceptional circumstances where the tattoo has a clear negative effect on the patient's thoughts and behaviour.

An individual funding request is required.

**Proposed change(s)**

No position change is proposed. The overall position remains the same – laser tattoo removal will not be routinely commissioned. However, the additional information set out above would be removed to be clear that the decision would not be based on meeting criteria.

**Reason for proposed change(s)**

The wording of the policy is being changed to make it easier for patients and clinicians to understand.

**Impact of proposed change(s)**

Access to the service remains the same. All patients could apply for this procedure under an Individual Funding Request. Individual cases would be assessed by a board and a decision would be made by the CCG as to whether or not the procedure would be funded.