

Name of treatment or procedure

Hair removal – for excessive hair growth (Hirsutism)

Description of treatment or procedure

Hirsutism is excessive hair growth in certain areas of the body. It is a problem that mainly affects women and that some may find embarrassing or distressing. Treatment usually involves removing the excess hair and slowing its growth or regrowth.

The main treatments are:

- Electrolysis (where electricity is used to destroy hair follicles – the cells around the root of a hair)
- Laser hair removal (where powerful beams of light are used to destroy hair)

Current policy

Treatment is funded for patients undergoing treatment for pilonidal sinuses to prevent the issue arising again. A pilonidal sinus is a small cyst or abscess that occurs between the top of the buttocks. It can cause severe pain and can often become infected.

Treatment is also funded for abnormally located hair-bearing skin following reconstructive surgery on the face and neck.

In other circumstances, treatment will only be funded if **all** of the following circumstances are met:

- There is an existing endocrine medical condition (affecting hormones) and excessive facial hair (as classified on a medical scale)
- Medical treatments have been tried for at least one year and have failed
- Patients with a body mass index (BMI) greater than 30 are in a weight reduction programme and have lost at least 5 per cent of their body weight (BMI is a measurement that uses a person's height and weight to see if their weight is healthy).

All cases will be subject to approval by the Individual Funding Request team and must be accompanied by an opinion from a specialist hospital consultant.

Funding is for six treatments only at NHS-commissioned premises.

Proposed change(s)

The CCG would fund this treatment if the patient:

Has undergone reconstructive surgery leading to abnormally located hair-bearing skin

OR

Is undergoing treatment for pilonidal sinuses to stop the issue from returning.

Reason for proposed change(s)

All excess hair removal treatment that does not meet the criteria above is considered to be cosmetic and so the new criteria is in line with clinical evidence.

Impact of proposed change(s)

For patients who DO NOT meet the above criteria, the CCG would **only** fund the treatment if an Individual Funding Request (IFR) application proved exceptional clinical need and that view was supported by the Clinical Commissioning Group.