

Name of treatment or procedure

Surgical removal of lipoma (fatty lumps)

Description of treatment or procedure

This is the surgical removal of lipomas, which are soft, fatty lumps that grow under the skin. They are harmless and do not usually need to be removed unless they are causing problems, such as pain, or if there is uncertainty about whether the lump is something else.

People may want a lipoma removed if it is large or in an obvious place and it is affecting their self-esteem, but this is regarded as cosmetic surgery and is usually unavailable through the NHS.

Current policy

Surgery will only be funded where someone's day-to-day life is severely affected and/or the lipoma is repeatedly injured due to its size and/or position.

Proposed change(s)

The Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) would only fund this treatment if the lipoma is on the face or neck **and** one of the following apply:

- There is a suspected cancer

Or

- The patient's day-to-day life is severely affected

OR

- There is evidence of multiple lesions (abnormal changes) under the skin.

Lipomas on other areas of the body would be referred back to primary care.

Reason for proposed change(s)

Removal of lipomas that do not meet the criteria above is considered to be cosmetic.

Impact of proposed change(s)

For patients who do not meet the 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 CCG.