

## **Thames Valley Priorities Committee Commissioning Policy Statement**

**Policy No. TVPC26**                      **Pectus anomaly surgery**

**Recommendation made by  
the Priorities Committee:**        **July 2015**

**Date of issue:**                      **November 2015**

Pectus anomaly describes a deformity of the sternum (breastbone). There are two main types of anomaly, pectus excavatum ('funnel chest', 'sunken chest') and pectus carinatum in which the sternum is raised. There is also a rare third type of anomaly called pectus arcuatum, where there is a ridge high across the upper part of the sternum and the rest of the chest falls away to a flatter shape. Anomalies vary from mild to marked and to what degree the disorder affects the individual's life is variable.

Thames Valley Priorities Committee has reviewed the evidence for the effectiveness of surgical interventions to treat pectus anomaly and has concluded that due to the lack of evidence of positive effect of pectus surgery on patient's cardiopulmonary function, surgery is **not normally funded**.

As per the policy for 'Aesthetic treatments for adults and children' (TVPC16), the Thames Valley Clinical Commissioning Groups do not normally support aesthetic or cosmetic interventions that are intended to change aspects of a person's appearance.

If clinicians consider that their patient's case for an intervention provides grounds for funding as an exception to policy, then an application for individual funding should be submitted to their NHS Clinical Commissioning Group Individual Funding Request team.

### **NOTES:**

- Potentially exceptional circumstances may be considered by a patient's CCG where there is evidence of significant health status impairment (e.g. inability to perform activities of daily living) and there is evidence that the intervention sought would improve the individual's health status.
- This policy will be reviewed in the light of new evidence or new national guidance, e.g., from NICE.
- Thames Valley clinical policies can be viewed at <http://www.fundingrequests.ccsu.nhs.uk/>