

Policy Recommendation: Laser Therapy for Recurrent Pilonidal Sinus

Date of Issue: February 2017

The Priorities Committee has reviewed the evidence of clinical and cost effectiveness of Laser therapy for recurrent pilonidal sinus and recommends that:

- Laser therapy for recurrent pilonidal sinus is low priority.
 - There is a lack of sufficient evidence of clinical benefit to support funding laser treatment as an option for preventing recurrence of pilonidal sinus disease at this time. The evidence is inconsistent and further longitudinal studies with larger samples are required for an accurate assessment of the benefits in relation to cost effectiveness.
 - Should more conclusive evidence come to light in the future the decision will be reconsidered.

Supporting Information

- There is no NICE guidance around pilonidal sinus.
- The 2012 NHS Modernisation Agency and British Association of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons guidance recommends that hair removal should be commissioned by the NHS for patients who are undergoing treatment for pilonidal sinuses to reduce recurrence. They do not recommend laser treatment.

Notes:

Whilst the panel recognised the considered expert advice of NICE in their recommendation the panel also had a duty to prioritise spending of a finite resource locally and made a decision which it felt gave the most equitable and effective use of investment.