

**Procedure that requires Prior Approval**

**Thames Valley Priorities Committee Commissioning Policy Statement**

**Policy No. TVPC63**                      **Circumcision and Preputioplasty**

**Recommendation made by  
the Priorities Committee:**

July 2017, updated November 2019, January 2020<sup>1</sup>, June 2020<sup>2</sup>

**Date of issue:**                      **April 2020**

Circumcision for cultural and non-therapeutic reasons is not normally funded.

Male circumcision or preputioplasty will **not** normally be funded for the following indications in children and young people under the age of 16 years:

- Religious or cultural reasons
- A tight foreskin that shows no other signs of pathology
- A foreskin that is adherent to the glans
- Pain in the penis without apparent cause
- Less than four severe episodes of balanitis or balanoposthitis which can be managed conservatively for example with emollients, topical steroids, anti-fungals, oral antibiotics
- Paraphimosis where the foreskin is retracted and cannot be returned back to the end of the penis. This does not include pathological phimosis.
- Recurrent urinary tract infections (UTIs) where there is no abnormal renal or urinary tract anatomy\*
- Prevention of sexually transmitted infections

*Children have rights with respect to circumcision. Unless the child is at risk of serious and immediate harm, therapeutic circumcision should never be performed without parental consent and, when the child is Gillick<sup>2</sup> competent, the informed consent of the child himself. In cases of doubt seek legal advice if necessary.*

Adults

Circumcision and preputioplasty will **not** normally be funded for the following indications in adults and young people 16 years or older:

- Religious or cultural reasons
- Recurrent UTIs
- Prevention of sexually transmitted infections

<sup>1</sup> Guidance, evidence and clinical opinion reviewed at TVPC Nov 2019, Jan 2020

<sup>2</sup> Updated to provide further clarification in response to clinician feedback, policy intention not changed

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/consent-to-treatment/children/>

\* this policy excludes circumcision for abnormal renal or urinary tract anatomy or any other procedures that will fall within the scope of NHS England specialist paediatric urology services

Adults continued:

The following management will need to be undertaken prior to circumcision:

- for mild to moderate signs of LS [historically referred to as balanitis xerotica obliterans (BXO)], topical steroids should be used.
- for mild to moderate pathological phimosis where scarring makes it non retractable, topical steroids should be used.
- for episodes of balanitis or balanoposthitis occurring less than four times per year, appropriate conservative management for example emollients, topical steroids, anti-fungals or oral antibiotics should be tried

**OPCS codes:**

N303 circumcision

N30.1 Prepuceplasty

N30.4 Dorsal slit of prepuce [includes lateral slit of prepuce]

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/>