



Procedure that requires prior approval

**Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, West Essex and Milton Keynes
Priorities Forum statement**

Number:	41
Subject:	Hallux valgus / Bunions
Date:	May 2018
Date review due:	May 2021

GUIDANCE

Hallux valgus, commonly known as bunions, can cause varying degrees of pain with limitation of function and mobility as an effect of pressure from shoes over the medial prominence of the metatarsal head. Conservative management such as orthoses does not always help to recover from symptoms and improve the long-term outcome. Surgical intervention can bring significant improvements in symptoms and clinical parameters.

OPCS codes:

W79.1, W79.2, W79.9: soft tissue operations on joint of toe;

W 15.1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9: Division of bone of foot (osteotomy of metatarsal, tarsal or phalanx);

W 59.1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9: Fusion of joint of toe (fusion of metatarsophalangeal, interphalangeal joints or revision of fusion)

The CCG will not routinely fund surgery for bunions when the indication is primarily cosmetic.

The CCG will routinely fund surgery for bunions only when the following criteria have been met:

- The patient suffers from severe pain or deformity (overriding toes) that cause significant functional impairment (the application for funding will require a description of the functional impairment)

AND

- The patient has had no improvement in their symptoms despite engaging with conservative measures for 3 months. Conservative measures include the following:
 - Avoiding high heel shoes and wearing wide fitting leather shoes which stretch
 - Non-surgical treatments such as bunion pads, splints, insoles or shields.
 - Simple analgesia

AND

- The patient and clinician have engaged in the Shared Decision Making process to ensure the patient has had all the treatments options made available to them and they have actively participated in the decision to proceed with surgery. A recognised tool for shared decision making should be used such as the Ottawa PDA for bunions <https://decisionaid.ohri.ca/AZsumm.php?ID=1163>

References:

Royal College of Surgeons - RCS (2017). Commissioning guide: Painful deformed great toe in adults. <https://www.rcseng.ac.uk/-/media/files/rcs/standards-and-research/commissioning/boa--painful-deformed-great-toe-guide-2017.pdf>

Human Rights and Equalities Legislation has been considered in the development of this guidance