

Draft General Commissioning Policy

Treatment	Blepharoplasty
For the treatment of	Excess eyelid skin
Background	<p>This policy is needed in order to clarify the patient criteria which must be fulfilled in order for this procedure to be commissioned.</p> <p>Blepharoplasty for excess eyelid skin is deemed as cosmetic and is not routinely commissioned by NHS Hull CCG. Such requests are thus currently considered via the Individual Funding Request (IFR) process.</p>
Commissioning position	<p><u>Commissioned</u></p> <p>Surgery on the lower eyelid may be considered only for the correction of ectropion or entropion (a medical condition in which the eyelid turns inwards or outwards - refer to Ophthalmology) or for the removal of lesions of the eyelid skin or lid margin.</p> <p>Blepharoplasty will also be commissioned as part of rehabilitative surgery for patients with thyroid eye disease who may have significant disfigurement as a result of their disease rather than due to ageing changes</p> <p><u>Not-Routinely Commissioned</u></p> <p>NHS Hull CCG may consider requests for surgery on the upper eyelid where it is required to correct functionally significant impairment of vision in the relaxed, non-compensated state or where there is clinical observation of poor eyelid function or discomfort.</p> <p>Any request for blepharoplasty should demonstrate either how the patient meets the criteria or why the patient should be considered an exception, and be submitted for consideration via the NHS Hull CCG IFR process.</p> <p>Please note - NHS Hull CCG will not commission cosmetic eyelid surgery (lower or upper) to correct puffy, hooded, wrinkled, tired looking eyes. These are normal effects due to gravity, environmental factors (exposure to the sun) and the ageing process.</p>
Effective from	October 2015
Summary of evidence / rationale	<p>Many people acquire excess skin in the upper eyelids as part of the process of ageing and this may be considered normal. However, if this starts to interfere with vision or function of the eyelid apparatus then this can warrant treatment.</p> <p>Excessive skin in the lower lid may cause “eye bags” but does not affect function of the eyelid or vision and therefore does not need correction. Blepharoplasty type procedures however may form part of the treatment of disorders of the lid or overlying skin.</p>
Date	October 2015
Review Date	October 2017
Contact for this policy	Karen Billany, Senior Commissioning Manager, NHS Hull Clinical Commissioning Group. karen.billany@nhs.net

Related NHS Hull CCG Policy:

Face, Neck, Brow Lift

References:

1. Information for Commissioners of Plastic Surgery Services - Referrals and Guidelines in Plastic Surgery (NHS Modernisation Agency) London <http://www.bapras.org.uk/downloaddoc.asp?id=425>