

Draft General Commissioning Policy

Treatment	Liposuction
For the treatment of	Problems of fat distribution
Background	This commissioning policy is needed because liposuction is a treatment often used to improve appearance rather than to treat health conditions. As such, liposuction is not routinely commissioned and requests are considered via the Individual Funding Request (IFR) process, as per the criteria below:
Commissioning position	<p>Commissioned NHS Hull will routinely commission liposuction when it is used as a necessary adjunct to clinically necessary reconstructive surgery or other surgical procedures such as thinning of transplanted flaps or endoscopic axillary lymph node retrieval for breast cancer.</p> <p>NHS Hull CCG will consider commissioning liposuction, after IFR approval, in individual cases where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there is a clear symptomatic or functional requirement for surgery <p>AND</p> <p>it is to be used for contouring areas of localised fat atrophy or pathological hypertrophy in the management of true lipodystrophies, lymphoedema or lipomas.</p> <p>Not Commissioned NHS Hull CCG will not commission liposuction simply to correct the distribution of fat for predominantly cosmetic purposes, such as in 'body contouring'.</p> <p>Liposuction for the treatment of Lipedema Not routinely commissioned There is a lack of robust evidence of the long term efficacy of liposuction in the treatment of lipedema. All cases will be considered by the IFR panel on the basis of exceptional clinical circumstances. Clinical evidence will be considered where there is clear demonstration of exceptional effect on functionality of the activities of daily living</p>
Effective from	October 2015
Summary of evidence / rationale	Studies have shown that abdominal liposuction does not significantly improve obesity-associated metabolic abnormalities, and so decreasing adipose tissue mass alone will not achieve the metabolic benefits of weight loss.
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Review Date	October 2017
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References:

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[\[Article in English, German\]](#)
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