

TREATMENT OF VARICOSE VEINS POLICY

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AUTHOR(S) / FURTHER INFORMATION	Consultant in Public Health Medicine
LEAD DIRECTOR	Director of Procurement, Contracting and Market Management
THIS DOCUMENT REPLACES	DCCE 11 Treatment of Varicose Veins Policy 2008-2010
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Fylde and Wyre CCG is committed to ensuring that, as far as it is reasonably practicable, the way we provide services to the public and the way we treat our staff reflects their individual needs and does not discriminate against individuals or groups on the basis of their ethnic origin, physical or mental abilities, gender, age, religious beliefs or sexual orientation.

Should a member of staff or any other person require access to this policy in another language or format (such as braille or large print) they can do so by contacting the communications department or the relevant policy holder. Fylde and Wyre CCG will do its utmost to support and develop equitable access to all policies and procedures.

Managers are responsible for ensuring that a system is in place for their area of responsibility that keeps staff up to date with new policy changes.

Staff are responsible for ensuring that they are familiar with policies, know where to locate the documents on the CCGs intranet, and seek out every opportunity to keep up to date with Fylde and Wyre CCGs policies.

Independent contractors are expected to identify a lead person to be responsible for ensuring staff employed within their practice are aware of Fylde and Wyre CCG policies.

This policy is individual to Fylde and Wyre CCG. Fylde and Wyre CCG does not accept any liability to any third party that adopts or amends this policy.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This is the policy of NHS Fylde and Wyre CCG to enable the commissioning of treatment of varicose veins. This includes cosmetic surgery and non-surgical cosmetic treatments

The term “cosmetic surgery” means operations that revise or change the appearance, colour, texture, structure or position of the bodily features to achieve what patients perceive to be more desirable.

“Non-surgical” cosmetic treatments’ means other procedures that revise or change the appearance, colour, texture, structure or position of the bodily features to achieve what patients perceive to be more desirable.¹

This policy is written in recognition of service agreements that exist for the provision of treatment of varicose veins and describes eligibility criteria for those procedures. Patients may satisfy the criteria, or may be confirmed as exceptions by NHS Fylde and Wyre CCG on an individual patient basis.

1.1 Scope

This policy applies to the commissioning of services for those individuals who request treatment of varicose veins. Exceptional circumstances are considered when funding requests are received.

This policy applies to patients who are registered with a Fylde and Wyre CCG General Practitioner.

1.2 Principles

The principles that underpin this policy include the need for the NHS Fylde and Wyre CCG to commission interventions that are evidence based, based on need and equitably accessible.

Exceptionality

The panel will consider the exceptionality of the case when considering funding requests. For the purposes of the policy, exceptionality is taken to mean that the patient is different in their needs compared to other patients with a similar condition requiring an intervention.

2. TREATMENT OF VARICOSE VEINS POLICY

2.1 Context

The NHS will not pay for surgery for cosmetic reasons alone. However, reconstructive surgery and cosmetic surgery to correct or improve congenital abnormalities and injuries may be undertaken free of charge.

2.2 Inclusion criteria

Surgical treatment of severe varicose veins will be considered when any of the following apply:

- Bleeding from a varicosity that has eroded the skin
- Bleeding from a varicosity and are at risk of bleeding again
- An ulcer which is progressive and/or painful despite treatment
- An active or healing ulcer
- Recurrent superficial thrombophlebitis
- A history of DVT
- Recurrent varicose veins following previous surgery provided the criteria used for undertaking the initial surgery are in the inclusion criteria listed in the policy
- Surgery intended to prevent imminent skin ulceration when all other appropriate treatment options have failed

3. IMPLEMENTATION

Line managers will ensure that all staff are involved in processing commissioning request in Public Health, Quality & Clinical Outcomes, Procurement, Contracting and Management Directorates will follow the policy.

This policy will be available to all General Practitioners and service providers.

The policy will be available to the public and from the NHS Fylde and Wyre CCG website and to staff from the intranet.

3.1 Monitoring and Compliance

Any breaches to this policy will be monitored through the Commissioning Appeals Process and reported to the Executive Committee.

4. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Department of Health: Cosmetic Procedures Frequently Asked Questions.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/CosmeticSurgery/index.htm?IdcService=GET_FILE&dID=139989&Rendition=Web

5. GLOSSARY

None