

**POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE COMMISSIONING OF  
APPROPRIATE, EFFECTIVE AND PRIORITY HEALTHCARE**

**POLICY NUMBER 22**

**Policy for Commissioning Interventions for Correcting Hair Loss**

Policy/Procedure Number	F&WCCG/COMM/22
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## NHS FYLDE & WYRE CCG

### Policies for the Commissioning of Health and Healthcare

#### Policy for Commissioning Interventions for Correcting Hair Loss

##### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This document is part of a suite of policies adopted by the Clinical Commissioning Group to drive its commissioning of healthcare. Each policy in that suite is a separate public document in its own right, but will be applied with reference to other policies in that suite.
- 1.2 This policy relates to the commissioning of interventions for correcting hair loss. These interventions include:
  - Dermatography
  - Acrylic Wigs
  - Human Hair Wigs
  - Hair transplantation
  - Specific treatments for medical conditions which present as hair loss, e.g.:
    - Topical agents (corticosteroids, immunotherapy, minoxidil, dithranol)
    - Intralesional steroid injections
    - Systemic agents (corticosteroids, cyclosporine)
    - Phototherapy
    - Cognitive behavioural therapy for trichotillomania

##### 2. Definition

- 2.1 Interventions to correct hair loss have the intended outcome of improving the cosmetic appearance of the body.
- 2.2 Hair loss may be caused by:
  - the normal ageing process
  - trauma
  - chemotherapy
  - an underlying medical condition (e.g alopecia, trichotillomania and tinea capitis)
- 2.3 The Clinical Commissioning Group recognises that a patient may:
  - a) suffer from hair loss
  - b) wish to have a service provided for their hair loss
  - c) be advised that they are clinically suitable for the treatment, and
  - d) be distressed by their hair loss, and by the fact that that this intervention may not be commissioned by this Clinical Commissioning Group.

Such features place the patient within the group to whom this policy applies and do not make them exceptions to it.

### 3 Appropriate Healthcare

- 3.1 The Clinical Commissioning Group considers that correction of hair loss with the sole intended outcome of improving cosmetic appearance places the intervention within the category of interventions that are appropriate for commissioning under Category 2. This is because their intended outcome (i.e. to improve cosmetic appearance) is other than those listed under category 1 (i.e. to preserve life, prevent or relieve pain, disability or physical discomfort, directly address the distress or disability associated with a diagnosed mental health condition or maintain dignity at the time of death.)
- 3.2 While the Clinical Commissioning Group wishes to commission this service, it is unable to do so on the basis of competing priorities.

### 4. Effective Healthcare

- 4.1 As the Clinical Commissioning Group does not consider interventions for correcting hair loss to be appropriate for commissioning under category 1, it is unnecessary to consider effectiveness.

### 5 Cost Effective Healthcare

- 5.1 As the Clinical Commissioning Group does not consider interventions for correcting hair loss to be appropriate for commissioning under category 1, it is unnecessary to consider cost effectiveness.

### 6. Ethical Healthcare

- 6.1 As the Clinical Commissioning Group does not consider interventions for correcting hair loss to be appropriate for commissioning under category 1, it is unnecessary to consider the criterion of ethical delivery.

### 7. Policy

- 7.1 The Clinical Commissioning Group will not commission interventions to correct hair loss if the sole intended outcome is to improve the cosmetic appearance.

### 8. Exceptions

- 8.1 The Clinical Commissioning Group will consider exceptions to this policy. This policy is based on criteria of appropriateness, effectiveness, cost effectiveness and ethical issues. A successful request to be regarded as an exception is likely to be based on evidence that the patient differs from the usual group of patients to which the policy applies, and this difference substantially changes the application of those criteria for this patient. Requests for funding for correction of hair loss under any other circumstances must be submitted to the Clinical Commissioning Group's Individual Funding Request Panel. (See Clinical Commissioning Group's Individual Funding Request Policy).

### 9. Force

- 9.1 This policy remains in force for a period of four years from the date of its adoption, or until it is superseded by a revised policy, whichever is sooner.

Mike Leaf  
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