

**Programme Title: Clinical Policies**

Clinical Policies aim to prevent avoidable harm to patients by only offering treatments on the NHS that are evidence-based, clinically safe and effective, as well as cost effective and a good use of resources.

**Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, Bedfordshire, Luton, Milton Keynes and Hertfordshire**

<b>Title of policy and version:</b>	<b>Breast – Breast Prosthesis Removal</b>  Version: v1.0
<b>Commissioning position:</b>	Criteria Based Access
<b>Scope:</b>	<p><b>Covers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surgical removal of breast implants, including Poly Implant Prothèse PIP implants.</li> </ul> <p><b>Out of Scope:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implants inserted following surgery for breast cancer or breast cancer prevention. In these cases, please refer to the Association of Breast Surgery (ABS) Guidance for the commissioning of Oncoplastic Breast Surgery.</li> <li>• Gender reassignment surgery.</li> </ul>
<b>Cohort:</b>	Patients aged 18 years and over with breast implants where removal is clinically indicated.
<b>Other relevant Clinical Policy</b>	TBC

<b>Treatments routinely funded:</b>	<p>The ICB will fund surgery to remove any breast implants (including PIP implants) for any one of the following clinical indications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After implant leakage or rupture <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Severe capsular contracture (grade III or IV on the Baker classification), confirmed by specialist opinion <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Implants complicated by recurrent implant infection or seroma <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Development of Breast Implant Associated Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma (BIA-ALCL).</li> </ul> <p><b>In addition:</b></p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only patients whose initial procedure was funded by the NHS should be considered for both implant removal and replacement. Implants which were inserted privately, may be removed by the NHS but not replaced and no other subsequent cosmetic procedures will be funded.</li> <li>• Bilateral implant removal may be considered where only one implant fail and this is clinically appropriate.</li> </ul>
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<b>Treatments not funded:</b>	Removal of breast implants outside the clinical indications listed above.
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<p><b>Rationale:</b></p> <p>The ICB will fund removal of breast implants where there is a clear clinical indication and removal is necessary to address harm or complication. This is except for urgent and emergency complications or complications of privately funded surgery which should be addressed by the private provider. This is aligned to national Evidence Based Interventions guidance.</p>
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<p><b>IFR Statement Clinical Exceptionality:</b></p> <p>Where a patient does not meet the policy criteria or the intervention is not normally funded by the NHS, an application for clinical exceptionality can be considered via the ICB's Individual Funding Request (IFR) Policy and Process.</p>
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<b>Coding list:</b>

Policy document record:	Breast – Breast Prothesis Removal Version: v1.0
Ratification date:	1st April 2026
Record of significant change:	v1.0 – New harmonised policy for Central East ICB, based on predecessor ICB policies (C&P, HWE, BLMK).
Planned review date:	TBC

<p><b>Document Environmental Impact statement:</b></p> <p>Neutral environmental impact. Policy to be shared and stored electronically where possible; if printed, use double-sided printing and minimal copies.</p>
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