

**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>CosmeticPlastics - Scar Revision</b>  Version: v1.0
<b>Commissioning position:</b>	Criteria Based Access
<b>Scope:</b>	<b>Covers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scar revision/refashioning procedures including keloid and hypertrophic scars</li> </ul>
<b>Cohort:</b>	Adults or children with established keloid or hypertrophic scars affecting function or causing serious facial disfigurement
<b>Other relevant Clinical Policy:</b>	TBC

<b>Treatments routinely funded:</b>	<p>The ICB will fund scar revision/refashioning procedures when <b>ALL</b> of the following criteria are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinical photographs of the scar are included in the patient record <b>And</b></li> <li>• Conservative measures have been tried and have not improved symptoms</li> </ul> <p><b>And either:</b></p> <p>(a) <u>Functional impairment</u> – the scar causes significant interference with activities of daily living, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ obstruction of vision or ear canal; <b>or</b></li> <li>➤ contracture/tethering affecting movement; <b>or</b></li> <li>➤ recurrent breakdown or ulceration; <b>or</b></li> <li>➤ significant pain or pruritus affecting daily activities;</li> </ul> <p><b>Or</b></p>
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	<p>(b) <u>Serious facial disfigurement</u> - the scar is on the face (the face does not include the ears, neck or scalp), is &gt;2 cm, the disfigurement is not correctable with camouflage and at least 2 years have passed since surgery</p> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A specialist clinician must confirm that the surgery is likely to improve the appearance and/or function</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Self-harm Scars:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must meet the above criteria in full</li> </ul> <p><b>And</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There has been no self-harm for at least 3 years</li> </ul> <p><b>And</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A report from mental health services confirms recurrence is unlikely</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Keloid scars</u></b> - arising from body piercing are not funded</p>
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<b>Treatments not funded:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cosmetic scar revision</li> <li>• Requests that do <b>not</b> meet the criteria above</li> </ul>
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<b>Rationale:</b>	<p>Cosmetic scar revision is a low clinical priority; for self-harm scars, a three-year period without self-harm with mental health confirmation supports safe, appropriate treatment.</p>
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<b>IFR Statement Clinical Exceptionality:</b>	<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>	
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Policy document record:	CosmeticPlastics - Scar Revision Version: v1.0
Ratification date:	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2026
Record of significant change:	v1.0 – New harmonised policy for the ICB area, based on predecessor ICB policies (C&P, HWE, BLMK).
Planned review date:	TBC

**Document Environmental Impact statement:**

Neutral environmental impact. Policy to be shared and stored electronically where possible; if printed, use double-sided printing and minimal copies.