

**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 - Hair and Hirsutism – removal of abnormally placed hair</b>  Version: v1.0
<b>Commissioning position:</b>	This intervention is NOT NORMALLY FUNDED by the ICB
<b>Scope:</b>	<p><b>Covers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removal of abnormally placed hair and treatment of hirsutism, including laser hair removal or electrolysis, where the primary purpose is cosmetic</li> </ul> <p><b>Out of scope:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hair removal as part of cancer treatment, reconstructive surgery, or emergency care</li> <li>Hair removal for gender dysphoria is commissioned by NHSE</li> <li></li> </ul>
<b>Cohort:</b>	Patients requesting hair removal for cosmetic reasons, including Hirsutism
<b>Other relevant Clinical Policy</b>	TBC

<b>Treatments routinely funded:</b>	<p>None under this policy.</p> <p>Note: Two indications for hair removal are not considered cosmetic and are therefore routinely funded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Abnormally located hair-bearing skin in mucosal cavities (e.g. oral mucosa)</li> <li>As part of treatment for pilonidal sinus to reduce recurrence</li> </ul>
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<b>Treatments not funded:</b>	The ICB will not normally fund laser hair removal or electrolysis for:
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cosmetic hair removal</li> <li>• Hirsutism</li> </ul>
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**Rationale:**

Removal of abnormally placed hair and treatment of hirsutism for cosmetic reasons are considered low clinical priority interventions. NHS commissioning is focused on treatments that address disease or restore function; cosmetic procedures undertaken primarily to improve appearance are therefore not normally funded.

**IFR Statement Clinical Exceptionality:**

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.

**Coding list:**

Policy document record:	CosmecticPlastics - Hair and Hirsutism – removal of abnormally placed hair Version: v1.0
Ratification date:	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2026
Record of significant change:	v1.0 – New harmonised policy for Central East 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.