

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

<p>Title of policy and version:</p>	<p>CosmeticPlastics - Blepharoplasty and brow lift (eyelid and brow surgery)</p> <p>Version: v1.0</p>
<p>Commissioning position:</p>	<p>Criteria Based Access</p>
<p>Scope:</p>	<p>Covers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of eyelid and brow surgery, including blepharoplasty, ptosis correction and brow lift in adults <p>Out of Scope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency procedures following trauma, malignancy, or sepsis • Eyelid and eyebrow surgery relating to congenital abnormalities, blepharospasm, thyroid disease, facial nerve palsy, and iatrogenic causes of deformity are also out of scope
<p>Cohort:</p>	<p>Adults aged 18 years and over</p>
<p>Other relevant Clinical Policy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Dysthyroid eye disease please refer to the Dysthyroid eye disease policy • For cosmetic surgery please refer to the Cosmetic treatments and surgery policy

<p>Treatments routinely funded:</p>	<p>Referral for specialist opinion for surgery for dermatochalasis (excess upper eyelid skin) will be funded when the patient meets ALL of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Patient has documented complaints of interference with vision or visual field related activities such as difficulty reading or driving due to upper eye lid skin drooping, looking through the eyelids or seeing the upper eye lid skin. <p>AND</p>
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	<p>2. There is redundant skin overhanging the upper eye lid margin and resting on the eyelashes when gazing straight ahead - with photographic evidence to support this</p> <p>AND</p> <p>3. Evidence from visual field testing that eyelids impinge on visual fields reducing field to 120° horizontally and/or 20° or less above the horizontal plane</p> <p>Referral for specialist opinion for surgery for brow ptosis (drooping of eyebrow) will be funded when the patient meets ALL of the following criteria:</p> <p>1. Patient has documented complaints of interference with vision or visual field related activities such as difficulty reading or driving due to eyebrow drooping whereby the patient must constantly raise eyebrows to see</p> <p>AND</p> <p>2. In the resting position, there is significant eyebrow drooping affecting the upper eyelid position - with photographic evidence to support this</p> <p>AND</p> <p>3. Evidence from visual field testing that eyelids impinge on visual fields reducing field to 120° horizontally and/or 20° or less above the horizontal plane</p>
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<p>Treatments not funded:</p>	<p>Eyelid surgery or brow lift is not normally funded for purely cosmetic reasons.</p> <p>Blepharoplasty for excess lower eyelid skin as the sole procedure is not normally funded.</p>
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<p>Rationale:</p> <p>Blepharoplasty (upper and lower lid) and brow lift will usually only be funded when there is a medical indication and not for cosmetic reasons.</p> <p>The visual field test limits in the policy align with government guidance for the minimum standards for all drivers – see https://www.gov.uk/guidance/visual-disorders-assessing-fitness-to-drive#visual-field-defects</p>
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<p>IFR Statement Clinical Exceptionality:</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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Coding list:

C13.- Excision of redundant skin of eyelid

S01.4 Browlift NEC

S01.5 Direct brow lift

S01.6 Internal Brow lift

Policy document record:	CosmeticPlastics - Blepharoplasty and brow lift (eyelid and brow surgery)
Ratification date:	1 st 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:	TCB

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.