

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

Title of policy and version:	Devices - Helmet Therapy Version: v1.0
Commissioning position:	This intervention is NOT NORMALLY FUNDED by the ICB
Scope:	<p>Covers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cranial moulding orthosis (“helmet therapy”) for treatment of positional plagiocephaly or brachycephaly in children aged 2 years and under <p>Out of scope:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synostotic cranial conditions (premature fusion of cranial sutures) and other specialist craniofacial pathways
Cohort:	Children aged 2 years and under with positional (non-synostotic) plagiocephaly or brachycephaly
Other relevant Clinical Policy	TBC

Treatments routinely funded:	<p>None under this policy.</p> <p>Conservative advice and routine health/therapy input (e.g. repositioning, tummy time) continue as standard care.</p>
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Treatments not funded:	The ICB will not normally fund helmet therapy (cranial moulding orthosis) for treatment of positional plagiocephaly/brachycephaly in children aged 2 years and under.
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Rationale:

Helmet therapy for positional plagiocephaly/brachycephaly is considered a low clinical priority intervention. NHS commissioning is focused on interventions that treat disease or restore function; helmet therapy does not alter the natural course of skull growth in positional plagiocephaly and is 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:

ICD-10: Q67.3 Plagiocephaly

Policy document record:	Devices - Helmet Therapy Version: v1.0
Ratification date:	1 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

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.