

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:	ENT - Removal of Adenoids for Treatment of Glue Ear Version: v1.0
Commissioning position:	Criteria Based Access
Scope:	<p>Covers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjuvant adenoidectomy undertaken at the same time as grommet insertion for treatment of glue ear (otitis media with effusion). <p>Out of scope:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adenoidectomy for other indications.
Cohort:	Children under 12 years with glue ear undergoing grommet surgery where adjuvant adenoidectomy is being considered.
Other relevant Clinical Policy	TBC

Treatments routinely funded:	<p>The ICB will fund adjuvant adenoidectomy with grommet insertion when one or more of the following apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The child is undergoing grommet surgery for treatment of hearing loss due to glue ear. • The child is undergoing surgery for re-insertion of grommets due to recurrence of previously surgically treated glue ear <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The benefits and risks of adenoidectomy have been discussed with the child and their family or carers, including that there is a risk of haemorrhage, and velopharyngeal insufficiency, and a shared decision has been made on whether to have the procedure.
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	Exceptions: There is specific NICE guidance for adults or children with Down's syndrome and Cleft palate.
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Treatments not funded:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standalone adenoidectomy for treatment of glue ear <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adenoidectomy for glue ear where the above criteria are not met.
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<p>Rationale:</p> <p>Adjuvant adenoidectomy may reduce recurrence of glue ear in selected children undergoing grommet surgery. Evidence supports its use only in defined circumstances, and routine use offers no additional benefit over grommets alone.</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:
OPCS: E20.1, E20.4, E20.8, E20.9 with D15.1
ICD-10: H65.2, H65.3, H65.4, H65.9, H66.1, H66.3, H66.4, H66.9, H68.1, H69.8, H69.9

Policy document record:	Removal of Adenoids for Treatment of Glue Ear 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>Document Environmental Impact statement:</p> <p>Neutral environmental impact. Policy to be shared and stored electronically where possible; if printed, use double-sided printing and minimal copies.</p>
