

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 - Tonsillectomy for Tonsilloliths Version: v1.0
Commissioning position:	This intervention is NOT NORMALLY FUNDED by the ICB
Scope:	<p>Covers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tonsillectomy requested solely for tonsilloliths (tonsil stones) <p>Out of scope:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tonsillectomy for recurrent tonsillitis, recurrent quinsy, suspected cancer, emergency presentations, or obstructive sleep apnoea
Cohort:	Patients with tonsilloliths (with or without symptoms such as halitosis, sore throat, swallowing discomfort, or foreign body sensation)
Other relevant Clinical Policy	TBC

Treatments routinely funded:	<p>None under this policy.</p> <p>Conservative/self-care measures should be optimised (oral hygiene, gargling) Outpatient stone removal under local anaesthetic may be appropriate on a one-off basis for symptomatic patients where self-care has failed.</p>
-------------------------------------	--

Treatments not funded:	The ICB will not normally fund tonsillectomy for tonsilloliths.
-------------------------------	---

Rationale:	
-------------------	--

Tonsillectomy for tonsilloliths is considered a low clinical priority intervention. NHS commissioning is focused on interventions that treat disease or restore function; tonsilloliths are usually managed with self-care and conservative measures, so tonsillectomy 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:

OPCS: F341–F349, F361

ICD-10: CA0F (Chronic diseases of tonsils or adenoids – tonsilloliths)

Policy document record:	ENT - Tonsillectomy for Tonsilloliths 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, BLTMK)
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.