

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:	General Surgery - Biological Mesh Version: v1.0
Commissioning position:	This intervention is NOT NORMALLY FUNDED by the ICB
Scope:	<p>Covers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of biological mesh in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ abdominal wall hernia repair or ○ closure of laparostomy. • Applies where separate or additional funding is requested (i.e. outside the usual tariff/contract price) <p>Note: Does not change funding for the underlying operative procedure where it is otherwise commissioned</p>
Cohort:	Patients undergoing abdominal wall hernia repair or laparostomy closure where biological mesh is requested.
Other relevant Clinical Policy	TBC

Treatments routinely funded:	None under this policy.
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Treatments not funded:	The ICB will not normally fund biological mesh for abdominal wall hernia repair or closure of laparostomy as a separately funded item / additional payment outside the usual tariff.
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Rationale:	Biological mesh as a separately funded item is considered a low clinical priority intervention. NHS commissioning is focused on interventions that are supported by clear evidence of clinical benefit and cost-effectiveness; the routine use of biological mesh outside usual tariff arrangements is therefore not normally funded due to insufficient evidence.
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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:	General Surgery - Biological Mesh Version: v1.0
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:	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.