Dilatation and Curettage
(D&C) - diagnostic and therapeutic use

Dilatation and curettage as a therapeutic intervention for heavy menstrual bleeding will NOT be funded.

Dilatation and curettage for diagnostic purposes will NOT be funded as it has been replaced for this indication by out-patient based endometrial sampling techniques.

Dilatation and curettage for the removal of retained products of conception following incomplete, inevitable, missed or septic abortions or for treatment of molar pregnancies WILL BE funded. No prior authorisation of funding for these indications is required.

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<tr>
<th>Strength of evidence</th>
<th>Clinical Effectiveness</th>
<th>Cost Effectiveness</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate</td>
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There is a lack of evidence to support a therapeutic benefit from the use of D&C for heavy menstrual bleeding.

D&C for diagnostic purposes carries a higher risk of complications and may be less diagnostically accurate than current out-patient based alternative techniques.

There is no published evidence of cost effectiveness.

Summary of evidence
National Institute of Health and Care Excellence Clinical Guideline 44: Heavy Menstrual Bleeding – Assessment and Management, 2007
https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg44

Coulter A, et al, Diagnostic dilation and curettage – is it used appropriately? BMJ, 1993
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1676730/

Thames Valley Priorities Committee Commissioning Policy Statement TVPC29, July 2015

NHS Manchester Local Policy Statement 12: Specific Obstetric and Gynaecological Procedures, November 2011
http://northwestcsu.nhs.uk/BrickwallResource/GetResource/4db13a96-dd50-4f0a-a056-5fd42d61f089
Reason for Requesting a Policy Recommendation:

Reviewed within Effective Use of Resources Project

Where a patient is considered to have exceptional need for and capacity to benefit from a treatment that is not routinely funded, a request for individual funding may be made to the Individual Funding Requests Panel. The patient must be made aware that the Panel may not support the request and must not be given any expectation that they will be able to have the treatment until a decision to fund has been received in writing from the Panel.

Further information contact:

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