Cosmetic Procedures to the External Ear

Procedures designed to improve the appearance of the ear **ARE NOT** routinely funded. Such procedures include, but **ARE NOT** limited to:

- Pinnaplasty for protruding ears (bat ears)
- Correction of hillock or cup type deformities of the pinna
- Repair of split earlobes or reduction in size of piercing holes
- Correction of helical deformities
- Removal of accessory auricles

	Clinical Effectiveness	Cost Effectiveness
Strength of evidence	Inadequate	Inadequate
Comment	There is a lack of evidence to demonstrate impact from procedures designed to improve the cosmetic appearance of the ear on any outcome including psychosocial function in patients with any type or degree of ear deformity. Prominent ears are found in around 5% of children. Pinnaplasty may be sought as a response to bullying in children with prominent ears. There is a lack of evidence to demonstrate whether pinnaplasty has any impact on their subsequent psychosocial or educational performance. There are no published studies of cost effectiveness.	

Summary of evidence

Hope N, et al, A retrospective study of patient outcomes and satisfaction following pinnaplasty, Patient Related Outcome Measures, 2016
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4889095/

Steffen A, et al, A prospective evaluation of psychosocial outcomes following ear reconstruction with rib cartilage in microtia, Journal of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery, 2010, 63(9): 1466-73
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19801208

Cheshire and Merseyside Commissioning Policies: Criteria, 2014/15
https://www.wirralccg.nhs.uk/Downloads/Misc/DRAFT%20Commissioning%20Policy%20Criteria.pdf

Thames Valley Priorities Committee Commissioning Policy Statement TVPC16: Aesthetic treatments for adults and children, 2015
http://www.fundingrequests.cscsu.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/TVPC-16-Aesthetic-Treatments-for-Adults-and-Children-BE.pdf

Reason for Requesting a policy recommendation:

Reviewed as part of the Effective Use of Resources Project.

Replaces part of Clinical Recommendations Committee Cosmetic (Aesthetic) Surgery Policy 2008 (Section 13: Hair depilation) and Section 10: Prominent Ears (bat ears).

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.

For further information contact:

Tel: +44 (0)1624 642646
Email: clinicalcommissioning.dhsc@gov.im
Website: www.gov.im/dhscclinicalcommissioning

Isle of Man Government
Reiltys Ellan Vannin

Department of Health and Social Care
Crookall House, Demesne Road, Douglas, Isle of Man, IM1 3QA.

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