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Our Ref: ID478

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which was received into this office on 13th April 2016.

You Asked for:

What are your local CCG commissioning criteria for Rhinoplasty and / or Septorhinoplasty?

NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group applies the criteria of the Cheshire and Merseyside Commissioning Policy, section 4.7 when considering treatment for Rhinoplasty and / or Septorhinoplasty, as detailed below:-

This procedure is NOT available under the NHS on cosmetic grounds.

Only commissioned in any of the following circumstances:

- *Objective nasal deformity caused by trauma.*
- *Problems caused by obstruction of nasal airway.*
- *Correction of complex congenital conditions e.g. cleft lip and palate.*
- *Non-core procedure Interim Gender Dysphoria Protocol & Service Guidelines 2013/14. Where the provision of "non-core" surgeries is appropriate, the Gender Identity Clinic (GIC) should apply for treatment funding through the CCG; the GIC should endeavour to work in partnership with the CCG.*
- *Patients with isolated airway problems (in the absence of visible nasal deformity) may be referred initially to an Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) consultant for assessment and treatment.*

I have also included a link to this policy, which is available on our website, for your information:

<https://www.wirralccg.nhs.uk/About%20Us/PLCP.htm>

Do you currently authorise nasal surgery for post-traumatic cosmetic defects without nasal obstruction?

This treatment is covered in the Cheshire and Merseyside Commissioning Policy criteria under section 4.7. Which can be found via the link in the above question.

As you can see from the policy, where the patient does not have nasal obstruction but does have isolated airway problems, they may be referred initially to an Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) consultant for assessment. Rhinoplasty and/or Septorhinoplasty are not available under the NHS on cosmetic grounds. Individual Exceptional Funding Requests (IEFRs) may be considered should a patient not fulfil the clinical criteria but the referring clinician is willing to support the application as clinically exceptional, the case can be referred to the IEFR Team for consideration.

Do you stipulate a minimum or maximum time limit between nasal injury and assessment for rhinoplasty in order to agree funding (and if so, what is the limit)?

The Cheshire and Merseyside Commissioning Policy does not include a minimum or maximum time limit between nasal injury and assessment for rhinoplasty in order to agree funding.

Do you require an assessment of the severity of cosmetic defect prior to agreeing the funding for rhinoplasty (and if so, what assessment is needed)?

It is the responsibility of the referring clinician (primary care GP or secondary care Consultant) to complete an IEFR pro forma supported by relevant clinical information, as part of the IEFR application. This information is often received in the form of clinical letters, clinical assessments and / or photographic evidence to demonstrate the severity of the circumstances of the patient. The referring clinician will consider the necessity for an assessment prior to submitting an IEFR.

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