

**Skin Contouring Procedures**  
**Individual Funding Request (IFR) Policy**  
**Includes Buttock, Thigh or Arm Lift / Reduction**

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Application Form	Generic IFR application form

# INDIVIDUAL FUNDING REQUEST POLICY

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## INDIVIDUAL FUNDING REQUEST POLICY

### VERSION CONTROL

<b>Document Status:</b>	Current policy
<b>Version:</b>	1617 v1b

<b>DOCUMENT CHANGE HISTORY</b>		
<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Comments</b>
V1	2010	Updated Guidance for Clinicians Policy Document
V8e	October 2015	Reviewed by the SCCG CCPF no amendments Removed from the SCCG Guidance for Clinicians Policy Document
1617 v1a	July 2017	Change of policy template from SWCSU template to SCCG

<b>Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Form OR EIA Screening Form completed. Date:</b>	1516.v1
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<b>Sponsoring Director:</b>	Sandra Corry
<b>Author(s):</b>	
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**BODY CONTOURING POLICY  
(INCLUDES BUTTOCK, THIGH OR ARM LIFT / REDUCTION)**

Body Contouring (including Buttock, Thigh or Arm Lift / Reduction)  
is not routinely funded by the CCG

**General Principles**

**Funding approval will only be given in line with these general principles. Where patients are unable to meet these principles in addition to the specific treatment criteria set out in this policy, funding approval will not be given.**

1. The CCG does not commission surgery for cosmetic purposes alone.
2. Funding approval must be secured by primary care prior to referring patients seeking corrective surgery.
3. Referring patients to secondary care without funding approval having been secured not only incurs significant costs in out-patient appointments for patients that may not qualify for surgery, but inappropriately raises the patient's expectation of treatment.
4. On limited occasions, the CCG may approve funding for an assessment only in order to confirm or obtain evidence demonstrating whether a patient meets the criteria for funding. In such cases, patients should be made aware that the assessment does not mean that they will be provided with surgery and surgery will only be provided where it can be demonstrated that the patients meets the criteria to access treatment in this policy.
5. Funding approval will only be given where there is evidence that the treatment requested is effective and the patient has the potential to benefit from the proposed treatment. Where it is demonstrated that patients have previously been provided with the treatment with limited or diminishing benefit, funding approval is unlikely to be agreed.
6. Patients should be advised that receiving funding approval does not confirm that they will receive treatment or surgery for a condition as a consent discussion will need to be undertaken with a clinician prior to treatment.
7. Patients with an elevated BMI of 30 or more are likely to receive fewer benefits from surgery and should be encouraged to lose weight further prior to seeking surgery. In addition, the risks of surgery are significantly increased. (Thelwall, 2015)
8. Patients who are smokers should be referred to smoking cessation services in order to reduce the risk of surgery and improve healing. (Loof S., 2014)
9. Where funding approval is given by the Individual Funding Panel, it will be available for a specified period of time, normally one year.

## **Background**

The aim of body contouring procedures is to improve the appearance of loose or sagging skin. There are different types of procedures, depending on the area of the body which is affected. (Nuffield Health, 2016 ) These procedures are generally considered to be cosmetic.

Cosmetic surgery is a type of surgery used to change a person's appearance to achieve what they perceive to be a more desirable look. This is very different to plastic surgery, which is surgery specialising in the repair and / or reconstruction of missing or damaged tissue and skin, in order to restore function to be as close to normal as possible.

Plastic surgery can be required following surgery, illness, injury or abnormality present from birth. (NHS Choices, 2015) Cosmetic surgery is for appearance only and does not have the same aim as plastic surgery.

Further information can be found on the Body Reshaping page of the British Association of Plastic Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons website. (British Association of Plastic Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons, 2015)

### **Policy - Criteria to Access Treatment – IFR**

1. Skin Contouring is not routinely funded by the CCG
2. Buttock, Thigh or Arm Lift / Reduction procedures are not available on cosmetic grounds. Applications may be considered as a result of;
  - a) post-traumatic surgery **and/or**
  - b) thinning of skin flaps
3. In order for funding to be agreed there must be some unusual or unique clinical factor about the patient that suggests that they are exceptional as defined below:
  - Significantly different to the general population of patients with the condition in question
  - Likely to gain significantly more benefit from the intervention than might be expected from the average patient with the condition
4. Photographic supporting evidence **must be** sent with an IFRP application form

Individual cases will be reviewed at the Commissioner's Individual Funding Panel upon receipt of a completed application form from the patient's GP, Consultant or Clinician.

Applications cannot be considered from patients personally.

Provided these patients receive the full support of their general practitioner, or clinician, in pursuing their funding request an application may be made to the Individual Funding Request Panel for consideration.

In order for funding to be agreed there must be some unusual or unique clinical factor about the patient that suggests that they are exceptional as defined below:

- Significantly different to the general population of patients with the condition in question.
- Likely to gain significantly more benefit from the intervention than might be expected from the average patient with the condition.

It is expected that clinicians will have ensured that the patient, on behalf of who they are forwarding the application for, is appropriately informed about the existing policies prior to an application to the IFRP. This will reassure the Panel that the patient has a reasonable expectation of the outcome of the application and its context.

If you would like further copies of this policy or need it in another format, such as Braille or another language, please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service on Telephone number: 08000 851067.

**Or write to us:** NHS Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group, Freepost RRKL-XKSC-ACSG, Yeovil, Somerset, BA22 8HR or **Email us:** [somccg.pals@nhs.net](mailto:somccg.pals@nhs.net)

## **References**

The following sources have been considered when drafting this policy:

1. British Association of Plastic Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons. (2015). Body reshaping. Retrieved 04 14, 2016, from British Association of Plastic Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons: <http://www.bapras.org.uk/public/patient-information/surgery-guides/bodyreshaping>
2. NHS Choices. (2015, 04 09). Cosmetic Surgery. Retrieved 04 14, 2016, from NHS Choices: <http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Cosmeticsurgery/Pages/Introduction.aspx>
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