

## REMOVAL OF PORT WINE STAINS & BIRTHMARKS INDIVIDUAL FUNDING REQUEST POLICY

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Application Form	Generic IFR application form

**REMOVAL OF PORT WINE STAINS & OTHER BIRTHMARKS  
INDIVIDUAL FUNDING REQUEST POLICY**

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**VERSION CONTROL**

<b>Document Status:</b>	Current policy
<b>Version:</b>	1516.v3a

<b>DOCUMENT CHANGE HISTORY</b>		
<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Oct15 V8e		Removed from Guidance for Clinicians Policy Document to separate policy
1516.v2		Include background data
1516.v3	July 2017	Change CSU template to CCG template update General Principles wording

<b>Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Form OR EIA Screening Form completed. Date:</b>	1516.v1 March 2016
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**REMOVAL OF PORT WINE STAINS AND BIRTHMARKS**  
Removal of Port Wine Stains & Birthmarks are 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**

Port wine stains are flat red or purple marks that affect a very small number of newborn babies. They can vary in size, from a few millimetres to several centimetres in diameter.

Port wine stains often affect one side of the body and usually occur on the face, chest and back (although they can occur anywhere). They tend to be sensitive to hormones and may become more noticeable around puberty, pregnancy and the menopause. Most are permanent and may deepen in colour over time.

**Birthmarks are coloured marks that are visible on the skin.** They're often present at birth or develop soon afterwards. There are several different types of birthmark and some of them are very common. The two main types of birthmark are:

- **vascular birthmarks** (often red, pink or purple) caused by abnormal blood vessels in or under the skin
- **pigmented birthmarks** (usually brown) caused by clusters of pigment cells

Vascular birthmarks often occur in the head and neck area, mainly on the face. However, both types of birthmark can appear anywhere, including inside the body. If surface blood vessels are affected, a vascular birthmark will appear red, purple or pink. If the affected vessels are deep, the birthmark will appear blue. Pigmented birthmarks are tan or brown-coloured skin marks.

**Changing Faces** - Is a charity for people and families who are living with conditions, marks or scars that affect their appearance.  
<https://www.changingfaces.org.uk/About-Us>

The Skin Camouflage Service programme was established in 1975 by the British Red Cross; in 2011 Changing Faces took over the service. The Skin Camouflage Service is available to Somerset patients on a self-referral basis. An appointment with the service is free. The Skin Camouflage Service can provide patients living with scarring, or a skin condition that affects how they look and their confidence, a way of regaining self-confidence and independence. The Service finds products that provide the best colour match for each patient and then teaches them how to apply the products effectively. The Service then completes a prescription request for the required products (type, colour, size etc), which should be then taken to the patient's GP Practice for authorisation. Please contact [skincam@changingfaces.org.uk](mailto:skincam@changingfaces.org.uk) or call 0300 0120 276, or visit their website for further information.

Links:

<https://www.changingfaces.org.uk/Skin-Camouflage>

<https://www.changingfaces.org.uk/Skin-Camouflage/I-want-an-appointment>

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

1. Consideration will be given to patients who present with significant port wine stains on the face
2. Treatment will be considered:
  - a) If the lesion is on the face and is unusually prominent or getting larger
  - b) other haemangiomas/vascular lesions if there are physical problems such as bleeding or ulceration
3. Photographic supporting evidence must be sent with the application form

#### **AND**

4. 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

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 <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/birthmarks/Pages/Introduction.aspx>