

## Laser Treatment for Skin Conditions

Funding for treatment is by Prior Approval – applications should be made to the Exceptional Cases Panel using the [Referral Proforma](#)

<b>Date:</b>	March 2018	<b>Date of Last Review:</b>	August 2012
<b>Policy:</b>	<p>It is the responsibility of referring and treating clinicians to ensure compliance with this policy.</p> <p>Referral for Laser Treatment is considered a low priority and will only be commissioned by the NHS on an exceptional case basis. Clinicians need to apply to the exceptional cases panel for approval of funding by completing the Laser Treatment for Skin Conditions referral proforma. Click <a href="#">policies</a> to access the CCG clinical policies web page: select the Skin Condition Policies drop down option and select Laser Treatment for Skin Conditions Policy to access the referral proforma.</p>		
<b>Note:</b>	<p>Patients who smoke should be advised to attempt to stop smoking and referred to stop-smoking services – see <a href="#">stop smoking policy</a>.</p>		
<p><b>This policy covers the laser treatment of all skin conditions, including congenital vascular skin lesions, hirsutism, rosacea, acne vulgaris and tattoos. On receipt of an exceptional case panel request, the CCG will consider funding for laser treatment of skin conditions on clinical levels of severity, including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A skin condition that interferes with function, causes significant pain or is associated with recurrent infection or bleeding.</li> </ul>			

**Estimated number of people affected:**

There were 2,273 laser procedures for skin conditions in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough from April 2016-17.

**Note for clinicians:**

This policy applies to GPs and all service providers in secondary care that carry out laser treatment for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG patients. Service providers must have prior approval from the CCG before carrying out the proposed treatment.

**Evidence and rationale:**

Evidence suggests that laser treatments for skin conditions have some effectiveness but they are unlikely to be a 'cure'<sup>1-9</sup>. Where a clinical justification can be made, laser treatment may be funded but cosmetic treatments are not funded.

**Priority:**

Low priority treatment.

### GLOSSARY

**Acne vulgaris:**

A skin condition that occurs when the hair follicles, become blocked and inflamed which can subsequently cause permanent scars.

**Hirsutism:**

Excessive body hair in men and women on parts of the body where hair is normally absent or minimal, such as on the chin or the face or body in general.

**Rosacea:**

A skin condition that mainly affects the face with symptoms of flushing, burning and stinging sensations, permanent redness, spots (papules and pustules) and small blood vessels in the skin becoming visible.

**Vascular skin lesions:**

Vascular lesions are formed by blood vessels that are visible through the skin. The harmless lesions look blood-coloured and may be of a red or purplish appearance.

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