

Commissioning Statement:

Condition or Treatment:	Circumcision
Background:	Circumcision is a surgical procedure that involves partial or complete removal of the foreskin of the penis. It is an effective procedure and confers benefit for a range of medical indications.
Commissioning position:	<p>Circumcision for both Adults and Children is not funded for social, cultural, or religious reasons. Circumcision will only be funded for specific medical reasons in accordance with the criteria specified below.</p> <p>GPs should seek advice regarding the use of steroid treatment (see "Summary of evidence/rationale" below)</p> <p>Medical reasons for funding circumcision include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carcinoma of the penis <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pathological phimosis: the commonest cause is lichen sclerosus – balanitis xerotica obliterans (BXO) is an old-fashioned descriptive term <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recurrent episodes of balanoposthitis <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leukoplakia (suspicion of cancer) <p>Relative indications for circumcision or other foreskin surgery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention of urinary tract infection in patients with an abnormal urinary tract <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recurrent paraphimosis <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traumatic (e.g. zipper injury) <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tight foreskin causing pain on arousal/ interfering with physical function <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congenital abnormalities
Effective From:	1 st July 2021
Summary of evidence/rationale:	<p>Nearly all boys are born with non-retractable foreskins as they are still in the process of developing and are often non-retractable up to the age of 3 years old. During normal development, the foreskin gradually becomes retractable without the need for any intervention. The majority of boys will have a retractable foreskin by 10 years of</p>

	<p>age and 95% by 16-17 years of age. Inability to retract the foreskin in boys up to at least the age of 16, in the absence of scarring, is, therefore, physiologically normal and does not require any intervention.</p> <p>Paraphimosis (where the foreskin becomes trapped behind the glans and cannot go forward again) can usually be reduced under local anaesthetic and recurrence avoided by not forcibly retracting the foreskin. It should not be regarded as a routine indication for circumcision. There are several alternatives to treating retraction difficulties before circumcision is carried out. The BMA (ref 3) states that to circumcise for therapeutic reasons, where medical research has shown other techniques (such as topical steroids or manual stretching under local anaesthetic) to be at least as effective and less invasive, would be unethical and inappropriate.</p> <p>Common risks of surgical circumcision include bleeding, local sepsis, oozing, discomfort >7 days, meatal scabbing or stenosis, removal of too much or too little skin, urethral injury, amputation of the glans and inclusion cyst. Furthermore, long-term psychological trauma and possible decreased sexual pleasure have also been reported. There are claims that there may be health benefits associated with this procedure, for example a lower rate of penile cancer and a reduced chance of sexual transmitted diseases (including HIV among heterosexual men). However, the overall clinical and cost-effectiveness evidence is inconclusive. Condoms are far more effective (98% effective if used correctly) than circumcision for preventing STIs.</p>
Date:	January 2021
Review Date:	July 2023
Contact:	Dr C Ives, Governing Body GP

Additional Information/References:

1. Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/31>
2. Royal College of Surgeons Commissioning guide: Foreskin conditions
October 2013 <http://www.rcseng.ac.uk/healthcare-bodies/docs/published-guides/foreskin-conditions>
3. British Medical Association (2006), London. The law and ethics of male circumcision: guidance for doctors. J Med Ethics 2004; 30: 259–263.
<http://jme.bmj.com/content/30/3/259.full.pdf+html>
4. NHS Choices – Information on Circumcision and medical reasons why it may be necessary.
<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Circumcision/Pages/Introduction.aspx>