

Circumcision Surgical Threshold Policy

This policy covers

Referral for Circumcision.

The policy does not apply in the circumstances below:

- If penile malignancy is suspected, then referral should be via a two week wait pathway for suspected cancer. In instances of traumatic foreskin injury it may be appropriate to refer to hospital as an emergency admission for surgery.*

Referring and treating clinicians should ensure compliance with this policy.

Referral proforma MUST be attached to the patient notes as evidence of compliance.

If criteria not met, use the exceptional funding section of the [referral proforma](#) to apply for funding.

CCG funding criteria for referral for Circumcision

1. Absolute indications for circumcision:

- *Suspected penile malignancy.
- *Traumatic foreskin injury where it cannot be salvaged.

2. Medical indications for circumcision¹

- **Lichen Sclerosus** (chronic inflammation leading to a rigid fibrous foreskin) - sometimes known as **Balanitis Xerotica Obliterans (BXO)**.
- Severe recurrent attacks of **Balanoposthitis** (recurrent bacterial infection of the glans and foreskin)¹ following failure of conservative management.
- **Recurrent urinary tract infections** (UTIs) in children with a structurally abnormal urinary tract.
- **Phimosis** in adults leading to **recurrent paraphimosis**, pain on arousal or interference with sexual function² or **limiting urinary flow**.
- Congenital abnormalities.

3. Circumcision for personal, social and religious reasons is not funded.

Smoking

Advise people who smoke to attempt to stop smoking and refer to stop-smoking services – [see stop smoking policy](#)

Glossary

Circumcision:	Circumcision is a surgical procedure that involves partial or complete removal of the foreskin (prepuce). Nearly all boys have a non-retractile (unable to be pulled back) foreskin at birth and as part of normal development it gradually becomes retractile without the need for intervention. The process of retractility is spontaneous and does not require manipulation. The majority of boys will have a fully or partially retractile foreskin by 10 years of age and 99% by 14 years of age. ¹
Foreskin:	Also known as the prepuce. It is the free fold of skin that overlaps the glans penis and retracts when the penis becomes erect and is the part that is removed at circumcision.
Paraphimosis:	Paraphimosis, also known as capistraton, is an uncommon condition in which the foreskin, once pulled back behind the glans penis, cannot be brought down to its original position.
Phimosis:	Phimosis refers to the inability to retract the distal foreskin over the glans penis.

Evidence and references to support this policy are available in [Part 2](#) of this policy.

Policy effective from:	Reviewed policy endorsed by CCG Governing Body 11 May 2021 Reviewed policy approved by IPAC 27 April 2021 Reviewed policy approved by CPF 8 March 2021 Policy adopted by CCG 1 April 2013
Policy to be reviewed:	Static Status (This policy applies indefinitely, unless or until new evidence likely to have a material effect on the policy becomes available.)
Reference:	onedrive\CPF Pols & working Area\Surg Threshold Pols\CCG Policies\Circumcision\Agreed\CIRCUMCISION MAY 2021 V5 – CRITERIA PART 1