

Commissioning Policy

Anal Skin Tags

Prior Approval

Date adopted: 04/12/2024.

Version: 2

Authorisation and document control

Name of policy:	Anal Skin Tags
Job title of author:	Senior Commissioning Programme Manager
Name of sign off group:	Commissioning Policy Review Group

Equality and Engagement Impact Assessment	
Date Equality and Engagement Impact Assessment was completed:	23 April 2024

Consultation	
Name of group	Date considered
Specialist lead (GHFT colorectal surgeon) and ICB elective clinical and care lead (GP).	April 2024

Authorisation	
Name of group	Date approved
Commissioning Policy Review Group	11 June 2024
System Quality Committee	4 December 2024

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Review date	June 2025
To be reviewed by (job title)	Senior Commissioning Programme Manager

Version control				
Version number	Date	Summary of changes	Author/Editor	Approved by
1.0	Aug 2015	Policy moved to new policy template	IFR team	ECCP group
1.1	Aug 2017	Updated review date	IFR team	ECCP group
1.2	Sept 2019	Updated review date	IFR team	ECCP group
2.0	June 2024	Revised policy with new access criteria (CBA/PA) rather than INN.F.	Senior Programme Manager	CPRG- 11.06.2024 System Quality

				Committee 4.12.2024
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1.0 Background

Anal skin tags are common and usually harmless growths that hang off the skin around the outside of the anus. They may be mistaken for warts or piles (haemorrhoids). Anal skin tags are not a risk to health and are typically painless or only cause minor symptoms such as itchiness. Anal skin tags can usually be managed conservatively with reassurance and advice regarding anal hygiene. Where patients are experiencing significant symptoms despite conservative management they may require surgical removal. Surgical removal can cause bleeding, pain and infection.

Gloucestershire ICB considers anal skin tags to be symptomatic, and therefore appropriate for assessment and surgical removal in secondary care where they meet at least one of the criteria in this policy. Prior approval must be granted by the ICB prior to referral.

2.0 Policy statement

Policy details
<p>Gloucestershire ICB will only consider funding specialist assessment and treatment of anal skin tags where the patient is for example, suffering from large or multiple anal skin tags that meet at least one of the following criteria. Prior Approval must be granted by Gloucestershire ICB prior to referral.</p> <p>The skin tag is impacting on faecal continence resulting in regular stool seepage. OR The skin tag is causing obstruction of an orifice to the extent that function is significantly impaired. OR The skin tag is causing continuous pressure symptoms in the course of daily activities such that pain is now restricting normal daily life. OR Unavoidable trauma in the course of normal daily activities causes the skin tag to frequently bleed. OR There is documented evidence of significant recurrent infection.</p>

3.0 Patients who are not eligible for treatment under this policy

Patients who are not eligible for treatment under this policy may be considered on an individual basis where their GP or consultant believes exceptional circumstances exist that warrant deviation from the rule of this policy.

Individual cases will be reviewed at the ICB's Individual Funding Request Panel upon receipt of a completed application form from the patient's GP, Consultant or Clinician. Applications cannot be considered from patients personally.

4.0 Connected policies

Removal of benign skin lesions - <https://www.nhsglos.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Removal-of-Benign-Skin-Lesions.pdf>

Haemorrhoids management - <https://www.nhsglos.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Haemorrhoids-Management.pdf>

5.0 References

Academy of Medical Royal Colleges Evidence Based Interventions Guidance on Benign Skin Lesions - <https://ebi.aomrc.org.uk/interventions/removal-of-benign-skin-lesions/>