

Commissioning Policy

Surgical removal of rheumatoid nodules

Criteria Based Access

Date adopted: 10th December 2024

Version: 2.1

Authorisation and document control

Name of policy:	Surgical Removal of Rheumatoid Nodules
Job title of author:	Senior Programme Manager
Name of sign off group:	Commissioning Policy Review Group

Equality and Engagement Impact Assessment	
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Commissioning Policy Review Group	10/12/2024
System Quality Committee	

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To be reviewed by (job title)	Commissioning Manager

Version control				
Version number	Date	Summary of changes	Author/Editor	Approved by
1	22/11/2018	Initial policy developed	IFR Manager	ECCP
1.1	17/05/2021	Updated evidence base and review date	IFR Manager	ECCP
1.2	10/12/2024	Editorial changes to move policy to new template. Policy category change agreed to CBA	Senior Programme Manager	CPRG

1.0 Background

Rheumatoid nodules are bumps in the bones which are different to other types of lumps on joints called ganglia. Rheumatoid nodules tend to occur in patients with more severe forms of the disease rheumatoid arthritis (RA). They appear most commonly on the elbow, forearm, fingers and thumbs or other bony areas following an injury. They may be painful or may cause no pain at all and may vary in size. If they are removed by surgery, they may appear again after a time.

Surgery may be an option for people who have painful or large nodules which affect the ability to perform activities of daily living as outlined in this policy.

2.0 Policy statement

Policy details

Requests for funding will only be approved where one of the following criteria are met:

- Significant pain and/or tenderness of nodules.

OR

- Complications such as infection and ulceration.

OR

- Pressure symptoms including nerve compression or pressure on an organ or tissue.

OR

- The size or position is causing significant functional impairment of activities of daily living.

Significant functional impairment is defined by the ICB as:

- *Symptoms prevent the patient fulfilling vital work or educational responsibilities.*
- *Symptoms prevent the patient carrying out vital domestic or carer activities.*

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

None

5.0 References

Primary Care Dermatological Society (PCDS) guidance on [Rheumatoid nodules](#)