

# Update on Procedures of Limited Clinical Effectiveness (PoLCE)

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# Update on review of PoLCE

- Across North Central London (NCL) we aim to have a consistent, evidence-based approach to delivering treatment ensuring all residents are treated equally when receiving care.
- As part of this process we have a policy known as PoLCE (Procedures of Limited Clinical Effectiveness) – which is a collated list of procedures.
- A clinically led NCL review has led to a single NCL PoLCE policy (the Camden policy was last updated in 2015/16).
- The NCL PoLCE policy will continue to have clinically-led reviews and updates. These will include reference to wider clinical best practice and guidance, e.g. NICE.
- In Camden the updated policy took effect from 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019.
- Equality Impact Assessment completed available from <http://www.northlondonpartners.org.uk/ourplan/Areas-of-work/polce-review.htm>

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## Some significant changes from the previous PoLCE policy, for example:

- Circumcision (age has increased to apply 14+)
- ME/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome is no longer included in the PoLCE policy (appropriate treatment will be offered to relieve symptoms in line with NICE guidance)
- Apronectomy or abdominoplasty (tummy tuck) has seen percentage weight loss and BMI criteria change
- A change in treatment options prior to referral for:
  - Cosmetic treatment of unsightly scars (Keloidectomy/revision of hypertrophic scars)
  - Surgical treatment of chronic rhinosinusitis (inflammation of the sinuses)
  - Hysterectomy for heavy menstrual bleeding
- Complementary and alternative medicines will only be funded if indicated by NICE

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## Some PoLCE procedures in NCL that will no longer be routinely funded, for example:

- Vasectomy
- Penile procedures such penile implants
- Surgical removal of:
  - Asymptomatic gallstones
  - Chalazions (a small lump or cyst developing in your eyelid)
- Surgical interventions for:
  - Uterovaginal prolapse (pelvic floor muscles/ligaments weaken and no longer provide enough support for the uterus)
  - Prophylactic or cosmetic reasons for bunions & hallux valgus
  - Abdominal separation (divarication of recti)
  - Some hernias such as inguinal hernia/abdominal hernia/recurrent and bilateral hernia
- Tissue removal from the uterus (dilatation and curettage) for heavy menstrual bleeding
- Treatment of Hyperhidrosis (excessive sweating)

# Update on review of PoLCE

- There will be an ongoing programme of clinically led reviews of the PoLCE policy as new clinical evidence and guidance emerges, or for example, interventions are replaced with less invasive or more effective procedures.
- If a patient has been referred for a previously PoLCE approved procedure prior to 11<sup>th</sup> February that is defined as ineligible under the new policy, the patient will still be funded to receive the procedure.
- Expect a further update from us in April for criteria related to the [London Choosing Wisely](#) programme and the national [Evidence-Based Interventions Programme](#) work.
- For more information contact – [Camccg.communications@nhs.net](mailto:Camccg.communications@nhs.net)
- Download the updated NCL PoLCE policy (January 2019) from Camden CCG website.