Funding

Exceptional healthcare, personally delivered
How are decisions made on NHS funding?

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) commission most of the hospital and community NHS services in the local areas for which they are responsible.

Commissioning involves deciding what services are needed, and ensuring that they are provided.

Not all treatments and medications are routinely funded on the NHS. This is because:

1. The effectiveness of certain procedures and medications can vary significantly amongst patients

2. Not everything that people might want can be afforded. This means difficult decisions sometimes need to be made about what should be provided by the NHS.

For some procedures, including referral for breast surgery, your local CCG will normally only fund patients who meet a set of criteria.

This ensures that the money the CCG spends on operations is put to the best use - **where patients will gain the most benefit.**

**The CCG does not commission surgery for cosmetic purposes.** Patients who are unhappy with the appearance of their breasts should be advised of the limited interventions offered by the NHS and where necessary offered treatment in order to manage their concerns with their appearance.

All funding requests should be made by your GP.
Who decides which procedures require funding approval and who sets the criteria?

GP and consultants write the criteria, deciding which procedures require funding approval based on up to date evidence. The criteria are regularly reviewed to ensure the right patients are getting the right treatment.

Breast Policy Access Criteria

Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) CCGs work together to provide a consistent and collaborative approach to their patients’ healthcare.

The BNSSG CCGs Female Breast Surgery Policy includes specific criteria for breast implant surgery (including implant rupture), breast asymmetry surgery and breast reduction surgery. The policy also sets out the treatment pathway for patients wishing to pursue reconstructive surgery post cancer.

The BNSSG CCG Male Breast Surgery Policy describes the access criteria a patient would need to meet before surgery would be funded.

Further details on how to access these policies can be found over leaf.

Your GP will assess the impact your breast condition has on your daily living; this might involve them asking you about your breast/s.
How do I apply for funding?

If your GP/General Surgeon thinks that you meet the criteria, for a referral for breast surgery, they will send an application to your CCG’s Individual Funding Request team which provides evidence on how you meet the access criteria.

The Individual Funding Request team will confirm, based on the information supplied to them, whether the criteria for the requested surgery has been met. Both you and your GP will be sent a funding decision letter detailing your application’s outcome.

If you do not meet the criteria set out in the BNSSG CCG’s policy, your funding decision letter will detail a further funding application option that can be explored with your GP.

If your circumstances change your GP can reapply for funding.

To discuss any aspect of the funding process or policy further, you can contact the Individual Funding Request team on the details overleaf.

**Note:**

Even if funding is agreed both you and a plastic surgeon must agree that breast surgery is in your best interests.

**North Bristol NHS Trust Plastic surgeons**

*Will not consider you for surgery if you are actively smoking or using nicotine products such as electronic cigarette and patches. You will need to be nicotine free for 3 months prior to surgery.*
Useful Contact Details

**BNSSG CCGs’ Patient Advice and Liaison Service**

**PALS**

is confidential and is complementary to the complaints procedure; providing an approachable, easily accessible route into all areas of the NHS, in order to raise queries and concerns.

BNSSG PALS. Suite 15, Corum 2, Corum Office Park Crown Way, Warmley, Bristol
BS30 8FJ
Tel: 0117 947 4477, or 0800 073 0907
Email: pals@swcsu.nhs.uk

**North Bristol Trust Advice and Complaints Team**

The hospital’s Advice and Complaints Team is on hand to provide support and advice on any concerns you may have about your treatment or the service you have received.

Beaufort House, Beaufort Way, Southmead Hospital, Southmead, Bristol BS10 5NB
Tel: 0117 414 4569
Tel: 0117 414 4568
Tel: 0117 414 4571
Fax: 0117 414 4572
Email: complaints@nbt.nhs.uk
Regional Funding Policies

**Bristol CCG’s Individual Funding Request Team**
South Plaza
Malborough Street
Bristol
BS1 3NX
ifrbristol@nhs.net
0117 900 2392

**Bristol CCG’s Breast Policies:**
**Female:** [https://www.bristolccg.nhs.uk/innf/breast-surgery-female/](https://www.bristolccg.nhs.uk/innf/breast-surgery-female/)

**Male:** [https://www.bristolccg.nhs.uk/innf/breast-reduction-gynaecomastia-male/](https://www.bristolccg.nhs.uk/innf/breast-reduction-gynaecomastia-male/)

**South Gloucestershire CCG’s Individual Funding Request Team**
Suite 15
Corum 2
Corum Business Park
Warmley
Bristol
BS30 8FJ
ifrsglos@nhs.net
0117 947 4486
South Gloucestershire CCG’s Breast Policies:

**Female:** [https://www.southgloucestershireccg.nhs.uk/innf/breast-surgery-policy-female/](https://www.southgloucestershireccg.nhs.uk/innf/breast-surgery-policy-female/)

**Male:** [https://www.southgloucestershireccg.nhs.uk/innf/breast-reduction-gynaecomastia-male/](https://www.southgloucestershireccg.nhs.uk/innf/breast-reduction-gynaecomastia-male/)

North Somerset CCG’s Individual Funding Request Team
Castlewood
Tickenham Road
North Somerset
BS21 9BH
ifrnsomerset@nhs.net
0127 554 6687

North Somerset CCG’s Breast Policies:

**Female:** [https://www.northsomersetccg.nhs.uk/innf/breast-surgery-female/](https://www.northsomersetccg.nhs.uk/innf/breast-surgery-female/)

**Male:** [https://www.northsomersetccg.nhs.uk/innf/breast-reduction-male-gynaecomastia/](https://www.northsomersetccg.nhs.uk/innf/breast-reduction-male-gynaecomastia/)
If you or the individual you are caring for need support reading this leaflet please ask a member of staff for advice.

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Help to support North Bristol NHS Trust:

www.nbt.nhs.uk

Southmead Hospital Charity

www.southmeadhospitalcharity.org.uk
Registered Charity Number 1055900

All Aboard

Join us as a foundation trust member and help shape the future of your local healthcare. Find out more:
www.nbt.nhs.uk/ft