

CLINICAL POLICY ADVISORY GROUP (CPAG)

Vasectomy Policy

The intention of this policy is to ensure that the majority of vasectomies are carried out within a primary care setting.

Statement

Vasectomy services are routinely commissioned in primary care within a non-acute setting. For the availability of services please see Appendix 3.

Derby and Derbyshire CCG (DDCCG) will only commission vasectomy services in an acute in-patient setting when **at least one** of the following criteria is met:

- History of an allergy to local anaesthetic
- History of fainting easily
- Those deemed otherwise unsuitable for local anaesthetic
- Inguinal hernia, unless the vas can be easily isolated
- Anticoagulant therapy
- Coagulation disorders
- Anatomic abnormalities resulting in the inability to palpate and mobilise both vas deferens; large hydroceles or varicoceles (unless the vas can be easily isolated) ; inguinal scrotal hernia or cryptorchidism
- Past trauma and scarring of the scrotum resulting in the inability to palpate and mobilise the vas deferens
- Ongoing scrotal skin infections or dermatitis that is not responding to treatment.

These commissioning intentions will be reviewed periodically. This is to ensure affordability against other services commissioned by the CCG.

1. Background

Vasectomy is a sterilisation procedure that involves the permanent obstruction of the vas deferens in males. The obstruction prevents sperm from entering the ejaculate and subsequently preventing conception. The vas deferens can be occluded through coagulation/cauterization, ligation with sutures or metal clips or insertion of intra-vas devices/plugs. Vasectomies can be performed under local and general anaesthetic, although local anaesthesia is preferred wherever possible. Vasectomies can sometimes be reversed. However the reversal procedure is not always successful and is not routinely offered on the NHS.

2. Recommendation

The complete list of recommendations can be found within the following documents:

- North Derbyshire CCG Non-scalpel Community Vasectomy Service Specification (January 2016 to December 2019)
- South Derbyshire CCG Community Non-scalpel and Scalpel Vasectomy Service Specification, Version 2 (December 2013)

3. Rationale for Recommendation

Minimally invasive vasectomy (MIV) technique can be carried out under local anaesthetic in a non-acute community setting. Surgical vasectomy techniques are carried out under general anaesthetic in an acute in-patient setting. MIV technique, when compared to other techniques for exposing the vas deferens, is associated with:

- Fewer complications
- Reduced level of bleeding
- Lower risk of haematoma formation
- Lower level of post-operative pain
- Lower risk of wound infection
- Quicker procedure.

4. Useful Resources

- NICE Clinical Knowledge Summaries, Contraception – sterilisation, June 2016, <https://cks.nice.org.uk/contraception-sterilization>
- Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and Faculty of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care Clinical Guideline: Male and Female Sterilisation Summary of Recommendations, September 2014, <https://www.fsrh.org/documents/cec-ceu-guidance-sterilisation-summary-sep-2014/>

5. References

- NICE Clinical Knowledge Summaries, Contraception – sterilisation, June 2016, <https://cks.nice.org.uk/contraception-sterilization>

- Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and Faculty of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care Clinical Guideline: Male and Female Sterilisation Summary of Recommendations, September 2014, <https://www.fsrh.org/documents/cec-ceu-guidance-sterilisation-summary-sep-2014/>
- Canadian Urological Association Guideline: Vasectomy, Canadian Urological Association Journal 10(7-8):E274-8, Zini, A., Grantmyre, J., & Chan, P., August 2016, http://www.cua.org/themes/web/assets/files/vasectomy4017_v4.pdf.
- North Derbyshire CCG Non-scalpel Community Vasectomy Service Specification (January 2016 to December 2019)
- South Derbyshire CCG Community Non-scalpel and Scalpel Vasectomy Service Specification, Version 2 (December 2013)
- Cook LA, Pun A, Gallo MF, Lopez LM, Van Vliet HAAM. Scalpel versus no-scalpel incision for vasectomy. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2014, Issue 3. Art. No.: CD004112. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD004112.pub4

6. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Consultation

Consultee	Date
North Derbyshire community vasectomy providers	September-October 2019
South Derbyshire community vasectomy providers	September-October 2019
UHDB Consultant Urological Surgeons	October 2019
CRHFT Consultant Urological Surgeon	October 2019
Derbyshire Community Health Services	October 2019
Clinical Policy Advisory Group	October 2019
Clinical and Lay Commissioning Committee	November 2019

Appendix 2 - Document Update

Document Update	Date Updated
Policy produced – version 1	September 2019

Appendix 3 - Non-acute Settings Offering Vasectomy Services

- Heanor Memorial Health Centre, Heanor
- Wheatbridge Health Village, Chesterfield
- Buxton Hospital, Buxton

- The Limes Medical Centre, Alfreton
- Sett Valley Medical Centre, High Peak
- Village Surgery, Derby
- Wakefield Vasectomy Service, Park Lane Medical Centre, Derby
- Carlton Street Surgery, Burton on Trent
- Balance Street Surgery, Uttoxeter