

## CLINICAL POLICY ADVISORY GROUP (CPAG)

### Pinnaplasty Policy

#### **Statement**

NHS Derby and Derbyshire ICB (NHSDDICB) has deemed that the surgical correction of prominent ears should not routinely be commissioned, unless the patient meets **all** of the following criteria:

- The child is aged 5 – 18 years at the time of referral
- Significant\* ear deformity or asymmetry is present
- Both the child and the parent/carer express concern

It is the responsibility of the Cosmetics Referral Assessment Service to define "significant deformity" with the aid of medical photographs.

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

## 1. Background

Pinnaplasty surgery is a cosmetic procedure that involves the surgical correction of prominent ears by improving the position or proportion of the ear. Prominent ears are often inherited and occur due to the lack of usual cartilage folds of the ear. Most cases of prominent ears become a problem in early childhood due to psychological distress.

## 2. Recommendation

NHSDDICB will not routinely commission the surgical correction of prominent ears unless the patient meets **all** of the following criteria:

- The child is aged 5 –18 years at the time of referral
- Significant\* ear deformity or asymmetry is present
- Both the child and the parent/carer express concern

The referral should include the following information:

- Age
- Details of condition
- Clinical photographs

\*It is the responsibility of the Cosmetics Referral Assessment Service to define "significant deformity" with the aid of medical photographs.

### Exception Criteria

Referrals for the following indications are considered as being exceptions and therefore are excluded from the policy:

- Congenital ear deformities i.e. microtia and cryptotia, which require alternative surgical procedures
- Acquired ear conditions i.e. trauma, ear thickening ("cauliflower ear"), skin cancer of the ears

## 3. Rationale for Recommendation

- Surgery is only offered to children above 5 years of age because children under the age of 5 years are:
  - Less likely to tolerate the procedure well
  - Less likely to be compliant with dressing care
  - Psychological distress is unlikely to have developed prior to the age of five and surgery can therefore be delayed until later
  - Ear cartilage is often soft in the early years
- Surgery restriction for children aged 5 – 18 years at the time of referral is based on the [NHSE Interim Clinical Commissioning policy: Pinnaplasty/Otoplasty \(November 2013\) guidance](#).

## 4. Useful Resources

- NHS, Ear correction surgery, including ear pinning, last reviewed 15/08/19, <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/cosmetic-procedures/ear-correction-surgery/>
- Cosmetic Surgery, Royal College of Surgeons of England, <https://www.rcseng.ac.uk/patient-care/cosmetic-surgery/>
- Ear Surgery, British Association of Plastic Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons, <http://www.bapras.org.uk/public/patient-information/surgery-guides/ear-surgery>

## 5. References

- NHS England – Interim Clinical Commissioning policy: Pinnaplasty/ Otoplasty, (Nov 2013), <https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2013/11/N-SC027.pdf>
- Pinnaplasty Commissioning Guide 2013, British Association of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons, published May 2013
- Prominent Ears, British Association of Plastic Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons, accessed 18/05/23, <http://www.bapras.org.uk/public/patient-information/surgery-guides/ear-surgery/prominent-ears>
- British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons. Glossary, cited 20/12/2021, accessed 18/05/23, <https://baaps.org.uk/patients/glossary/>
- Ear Surgery, British Association of Plastic Reconstructive Aesthetic Surgeons, cited 20/12/2021, accessed 18/05/23, <https://www.bapras.org.uk/public/patient-information/surgery-guides/ear-surgery>

## 6. Appendices

### Appendix 1 - Consultation

All relevant providers/stakeholders will be consulted via a named link consultant/specialist. Views expressed should be representative of the provider/stakeholder organisation. CPAG will consider all views to inform a consensus decision, noting that sometimes individual views and opinions will differ.

<b>Consultee</b>	<b>Date</b>
Consultant ENT, Head and Neck Surgeon, UHDBFT	May 2023
Associate Specialist in Plastic Surgery, UHDBFT	May 2023
Consultant ENT and Facial Plastic Surgeon, CRHFT	May 2023
Consultant ENT Surgeon & Head and Neck Surgeon, CRHFT	May 2023
ENT and Facial Plastics Surgeon, CRHFT	May 2023
Clinical Policy Advisory Group (CPAG)	June 2023

### Appendix 2 - Document Update

<b>Document Update</b>	<b>Date Updated</b>
<u>Version 3.0</u> Scheduled policy review. Policy has been re-worded to reflect the new NHSDICB organisation.	June 2023

### Appendix 3 - OPCS code(s)

D033 (Pinnaplasty)