

Policy:	<u>Electrolysis & Laser Hair Removal For Hirsutism</u>		GM Ref:	GM014
First issue date:	June 2015	Current version:	2.1	Last reviewed: August 2016

Policy inclusion criteria

Hair removal for functional reasons

(Section 'A' applies to all patients & Section 'B' applies to women over the age of 18 only)

Electrolysis and Laser Hair Removal for Hirsutism is commissioned for **functional reasons only**:

A) Where there is a history of recurrent pilonidal sinus, with:

- a history of one or more surgical treatments in the area.
- a documented history of recurrent folliculitis.

OR

B) Refer for a specialist opinion to exclude a serious underlying condition causing the hirsutism if:

- hair growth is of recent onset and rapid progression.
- the serum testosterone concentration is more than twice the upper limit of normal.

Funding mechanism: Individual prior approval provided the patient meets the above criteria. Requests should be submitted with all relevant supporting evidence, which must be provided with the request.

Hair removal for aesthetic reasons

Not funded unless exceptional.

Funding mechanism: An individual funding request can be made if there is a good case for clinical exceptionality. Requests should be submitted with all relevant supporting evidence, which must be provided with the request.

Policy exclusions

Hirsutism: Hair removal for clinical reasons, e.g. for a skin graft from a "hairy area" to an area that should not be hairy, or as part of a gender realignment pathway will be commissioned as part of that pathway and are not covered by this policy.

Hypertrichosis: Hair removal for hypertrichosis is excluded from this policy and treatment should be considered as part of the hypertrichosis care pathway, as clinically indicated.

Gender Realignment: This is commissioned by NHS England as part of the care pathway.

Refer above as normal within contract.