

Placename CCG**Policies for the Commissioning of Healthcare****Policy for Tonsillectomy/Adeno-Tonsillectomy**

1	Introduction
1.1	This document is part of a suite of policies that the CCG uses to drive its commissioning of healthcare. Each policy in that suite is a separate public document in its own right, but will be applied with reference to other policies in that suite.
1.2	This policy is based on the CCGs Statement of Principles for Commissioning of Healthcare (version in force on the date on which this policy is adopted).
2	Scope and definitions
2.1	Tonsillectomy is the surgical procedure for the removal of the palatine tonsils. Adeno-tonsillectomy is the surgical removal of the adenoids and the palatine Tonsils.
2.2	The scope of this policy includes requests for a tonsillectomy/ adeno-tonsillectomy for patients of any age. Patients may have diagnoses such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tonsillitis and enlarged adenoids. • Sleep Apnoea. • Peri-Tonsillar Abscess (Quinsy).
2.3	The scope of this policy does not include the management of sore throats in the absence of tonsillitis.
2.4	The CCG recognises that a patient may: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suffer from tonsillitis. • Wish to have a service provided for their tonsillitis • Be advised that they are clinically suitable for the treatment, and • Be distressed by their tonsillitis, and by the fact that tonsillectomy is normally commissioned by this Commissioning Organisation only under the circumstances detailed below. <p>Such features place the patient within the group to whom this policy applies and do not make them exceptions to it.</p>
2.5	For the purpose of this policy the CCG defines tonsillitis as a clinical diagnosis of painful inflammation of the tonsils.
3	Appropriate Healthcare

3.1	The purpose of tonsillectomy/adeno-tonsillectomy is to prevent further episodes of tonsillitis in adults and children.
3.2	The Commissioning Organisation considers the achievement of this purpose as according with the Principle of Appropriateness and places it within the category of interventions that are appropriate for commissioning. Therefore it will be commissioned by the Commissioning Organisation if it also satisfies the criteria for effectiveness, cost effectiveness and ethical delivery.
4	Effective Healthcare
4.1	<p>The Commissioning Organisation recognises that for people who are severely affected by tonsillitis, the outcome with this intervention is likely to be better than the outcome in untreated patients and that the intervention therefore satisfies the criterion of effectiveness . The evidence for tonsillectomy / adeno-tonsillectomy in those severely affected by tonsillitis is recommended by robustly reviewed sources.^{1,2}</p> <p>Nevertheless, if a patient is considered exceptional in relation to the principles on which the policy does rely, the CCG may consider whether the purpose of the treatment is likely to be achieved in this patient without undue adverse effects before confirming a decision to provide funding.</p>
5	Cost Effectiveness
5.1	<p>The Commissioning Organisation recognises that the outcome value for money of this treatment is within the NICE threshold, and that the service satisfies the criterion of cost effectiveness. Therefore this policy does not rely on the principle of cost-effectiveness.</p> <p>Nevertheless, if a patient is considered exceptional in relation to the principles on which the policy does rely, the CCG may consider whether the treatment is likely to be Cost Effective in this patient before confirming a decision to provide funding.</p>
6	Ethics
6.1	<p>The CCG does not call into question the ethics of these procedures and therefore this policy does not rely on the Principle of Ethics.</p> <p>Nevertheless, if a patient is considered exceptional in relation to the principles on which the policy does rely, the CCG may consider whether the treatment is likely to raise ethical concerns- for this patient before confirming a decision to provide funding.</p>
7	Affordability
6.1	The CCG does not call into question the affordability of these procedures and therefore this policy does not rely on the Principle of Affordability.

	Nevertheless if a patient is considered exceptional in relation to the principles on which the policy does rely, the CCG may consider whether the treatment is likely to be affordable for this patient before confirming a decision to provide funding.
7	Policy
7.1	<p>The CCG will commission tonsillectomy/adeno-tonsillectomy, subject to the judgement of the clinician responsible for managing the patient's condition, when the SIGN¹ criteria are met, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The patient has a sore throat due to acute tonsillitis. <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) The episodes of sore throat are disabling and prevent normal functioning <p>AND ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) The patient has had seven or more well documented, clinically significant, adequately treated sore throats in the preceding year <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> d) The patient has had five or more such episodes in each of the preceding two years <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e) The patient has had three or more such episodes in each of the preceding three years. <p>The CCG will also commission tonsillectomy for patients with a confirmed diagnosis of obstructive sleep apnoea who are either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Aged under 16² <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) Aged 16 or over³ when there is advice from a centre with expertise in sleep apnoea that CPAP has failed to control symptoms and tonsillectomy is the preferred clinical strategy. <p>The CCG will also commission tonsillectomy after a clinical consideration and assessment, where there has been more than one Peri-Tonsillar Abscess (Quinsy)².</p>
8	Exceptions
8.1	The CCG will consider exceptions to this policy in accordance with the Policy for Considering Applications for Exceptionality to Commissioning Policies.
9	Force
9.1	This policy remains in force until it is superseded by a revised policy.

10	References
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network, NHS Quality Improvement Scotland. <i>Management of sore throat and indications for tonsillectomy 117</i>. April 2010. http://www.sign.ac.uk/pdf/qrg117.pdf 2. Royal College of Surgeons and ENT-UK. Commissioning Guide: Tonsillectomy. September 2016. Accessed from www.rcseng.ac.uk 3. NHS Choices website http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Sleep-apnoea/Pages/Treatment.aspx

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