

## TATTOO REMOVAL EVIDENCE BASED INTERVENTIONS (EBI) POLICY

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Version:                                      | 2223.v2a  |
| Recommendation by:                            | Somerset ICB Clinical Commissioning Policy Forum (CCPF)   |
| Date Ratified:                                | 30 June 2021  |
| Name of Originator/Author:                    | EBI Service   |
| Approved by Responsible Committee/Individual: | Somerset ICB Clinical Executive Committee (CEC)   |
| Publication/issue date:                       | July 2021   |
| Review date:                                  | Earliest of either NICE publication or 3 years from issue   |
| Target audience:                              | <p><b>NHS Somerset ICB:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NHS Providers</li> <li>• GP Practices</li> <li>• Contracts Team</li> </ul> <p><b>Medical Directors:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Somerset Foundation Trust</li> <li>• Yeovil District Hospital NHS FT</li> <li>• Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS FT</li> </ul> |
| Application Form                              | Generic EBI Application   |

**TATTOO REMOVAL  
EVIDENCE BASED INTERVENTIONS (EBI) POLICY**

| <b>Section</b> | <b>CONTENT</b>                                   | <b>Page</b> |
|----------------|--|-------------|
|                | Version Control                                  | 1           |
| 1              | General Principles                               | 2           |
| 2              | Policy Criteria                                  | 2-3         |
| 3              | Evidence Based Interventions Application Process | 3-4         |
| 4              | Access To Policy                                 | 4           |
| 5              | References                                       | 4           |

**VERSION CONTROL**

|                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Document Status:</b> | Current policy |
| <b>Version:</b>         | 2223.v2a       |

**DOCUMENT CHANGE HISTORY**

| <b>Version</b> | <b>Date</b>  | <b>Comments</b>  |
|----------------|--------------|--|
| V1             | 2010         | Updated Guidance for Clinicians Policy Document  |
| V8e            | October 2015 | Reviewed by the SCCG CCPF no amendments<br>Removed from the SCCG Guidance for Clinicians Policy Document |
| 1516.v1.1      | July 2017    | Changed from CSU template to SCCG template   |
| 1516.v1.1a     | June 2018    | 3 year review, updated CCG template  |
| 1819.v1.2      | June 2021    | 3 year policy review, no clinical amendments   |
| 2122.v2        | July 2022    | Amendment from SCCG to NHS Somerset ICB.<br>New PALS email address                                       |

|                                       |             |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Equality Impact Assessment EIA</b> | N/A         |
| <b>Quality Impact Assessment QIA</b>  | March 2018  |
| <b>Sponsoring Director:</b>           | Dr A Murray |
| <b>Document Reference:</b>            | 2223.v2a    |

## **1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES (EBI)**

- 1.1 Funding approval must be secured prior to a referral for an assessment and/or surgery. Referring patients to secondary care without funding approval having been secured not only incurs significant costs in out-patient appointments for patients that may not qualify for surgery, but inappropriately raises the patient's expectation of treatment
- 1.2 On limited occasions, we may approve funding for an assessment only in order to confirm or obtain evidence demonstrating whether a patient meets the criteria for funding. In such cases, patients should be made aware that the assessment does not mean that they will be provided with surgery and surgery will only be provided where it can be demonstrated that the patients meets the criteria to access treatment in this policy
- 1.3 Funding approval will only be given where there is evidence that the treatment requested is effective and the patient has the potential to benefit from the proposed treatment. Where it is demonstrated that patients have previously been provided with the treatment with limited or diminishing benefit, funding approval is unlikely to be agreed
- 1.4 Receiving funding approval does not confirm that they will receive treatment or surgery for a condition as a consent discussion will need to be undertaken with a clinician prior to treatment
- 1.5 The policy does not apply to patients with suspected malignancy who should continue to be referred under 2 week wait pathway rules for assessment and testing as appropriate
- 1.6 Patients with an elevated BMI of 30 or more may experience more post-surgical complications including post-surgical wound infection so should be encouraged to lose weight further prior to seeking surgery.  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1198743X15007193>  
(Thelwall, 2015)
- 1.7 Patients who are smokers should be referred to smoking cessation services in order to reduce the risk of surgery and improve healing

## **2 POLICY CRITERIA NOT COMMISSIONED**

- 2.1 Tattoo removal treatment is not routinely commissioned
- 2.2 **Consideration may be given where all the following criteria are met:**
  - Significant morbidity due to allergy to pigments
  - The dye has caused a significant allergic reaction or infection and all other treatments to manage this have failed.

**AND**

There is evidence of some unusual or unique clinical factor about the patient that suggests they are exceptional as defined below to be provided with the application:

- Significantly different to the general population with the condition in question
- Likely to gain significantly more benefit from the intervention than might be expected from the average person with the condition

### 3 EVIDENCE BASED INTERVENTIONS APPLICATION PROCESS

3.1 Patients who are not eligible for treatment under this policy may be considered on an individual basis where their GP or Consultant believes exceptional circumstances exist that warrant deviation from the rule of this policy

3.2 Completion of a **Generic EBI Application Form** by a patient's GP or Consultant is required

3.3 Applications cannot be considered from patients personally

3.4 Only electronically completed EBI applications will be accepted to the EBI Service

3.5 It is expected that clinicians will have ensured that the patient, on behalf of who they are forwarding the application for, is appropriately informed about the existing policies prior to an application to the EBI service. This will reassure the service that the patient has a reasonable expectation of the outcome of the application and its context

3.6 EBI applications are reviewed and considered against clinical exceptionality

For further information on 'clinical exceptionality' please refer to the NHS England information using the link below page 9-13;

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/comm-policy-individual-funding-requests.pdf>

3.7 Social, Emotional and Environmental factors *i.e. income, housing, environmental pollution, access to services, family, friends, ethnicity, life experiences etc.* CANNOT be considered with an application

3.8 Where appropriate photographic supporting evidence can be forwarded with the application form

3.9 An application put forward for consideration must demonstrate some unusual or unique clinical factor about the patient that suggests they are exceptional as defined below:

- Significantly different to the general population of patients with the condition in question

- Likely to gain significantly more benefit from the intervention than might be expected from the average patient with the condition

## 4 ACCESS TO POLICY

- 4.1 If you would like further copies of this policy or need it in another format, such as Braille or another language, please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service on Telephone number: 08000 851067
- 4.2 **Or write to us:** NHS Somerset ICB, Freepost RRKL-XKSC-ACSG, Yeovil, Somerset, BA22 8HR or **Email us:** [somicb.pals@nhs.net](mailto:somicb.pals@nhs.net)

## 5 REFERENCES

The following sources have been considered when drafting this policy:

- 5.1 BNSSG Tattoo Removal Policy  
<https://bnssgccg.nhs.uk/library/policy-for-tattoo-removal/>
- 5.2 NHS England  
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2013/11/N-SC032.pdf>
- 5.3 [NHS England - Wave 2 EBI document](#)