

EAR WAX REMOVAL CRITERIA BASED ACCESS POLICY

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Application Form	Generic IFR application form

INSERT NAME OF POLICY

CONTENTS

Section		Page
	VERSION CONTROL	1
	GENERAL PRINCIPLES	2
	POLICY CRITERIA	2
	REVIEW	
	MONITORING, COMPLIANCE AND EVALUATION	
	ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS	
Appendices		
APPENDIX 1	Use Title Case	

EAR WAX REMOVAL POLICY

VERSION CONTROL

Document Status:	CURRENT
Version:	1516.v1a

DOCUMENT CHANGE HISTORY		
Version	Date	Comments
V8e	2015	Remove from Guidance for Clinicians Document set up as a separate policy
1516.v1	July 2017	Change the CSU template to SCCG template

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Form OR EIA Screening Form completed. Date:	20151126.v1a
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Sponsoring Director:	Sandra Corry
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EAR WAX REMOVAL POLICY

General Principles

Treatment should only be given in line with these general principles. Where patients are unable to meet these principles, in addition to the specific treatment criteria set out in this policy, funding approval may be sought from the CCG's Individual Funding Request (IFR) Panel by submission of an IFR application.

1. Clinicians should assess their patients against the criteria within this policy prior to treatment.
2. Patients will only meet the criteria within this policy where there is evidence that the treatment requested is effective and the patient has the potential to benefit from the proposed treatment. Where the patient has previously been provided with the treatment with limited or diminishing benefit, it is unlikely that they will qualify for further treatment.
3. On limited occasions, the CCG 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.
4. Patients with an elevated BMI of 30 or more are likely to receive fewer benefits from surgery and should be encouraged to lose weight further prior to seeking surgery. In addition, the risks of surgery are significantly increased. (Thelwall, 2015)
5. Patients who are smokers should be referred to smoking cessation services in order to reduce the risk of surgery and improve healing. (Loof S., 2014)

POLICY – CRITERIA TO ACCESS TREATMENT -CBA

1. Ear Wax Removal - Criteria based access - Treatment in primary care as per Modernisation Agency Ear Care Guidance
2. Patients should only be referred to secondary care if the patient is:
 - a) undergoing regular appropriate treatment, such as de-waxing a mastoid cavity
 - b) if they require microsuction because of anatomical abnormalities
3. Removal of ear wax from children with hearing aids is normally carried out within an audiology assessment in a secondary care setting

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. Applications cannot be considered from patients personally.

Provided these patients receive the full support of their general practitioner, or clinician, in pursuing their funding request an application may be made to the Individual Funding Request Panel for consideration.

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 IFRP. This will reassure the Panel that the patient has a reasonable expectation of the outcome of the application and its context.

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

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.

Or write to us: NHS Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group, Freepost RRKL-XKSC-ACSG, Yeovil, Somerset, BA22 8HR or **Email us:** somccg.pals@nhs.net

References

Please use the Harvard Referencing style

The following sources have been considered when drafting this policy: