

Criteria for Commissioning Interventions for Varicose Veins

Version:	4
Approval Date:	April 2016
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Date Issued:	May 2016
Review Date:	May 2018

Version Control Sheet

Document Title: Criteria for Commissioning Interventions for Varicose Veins

Version	Date	Author	Status	Comment
1	21.03.14	C Freeman	Draft	
2	14.04.14	C Freeman	Draft	Updated following comments from IFR Medical Advisors
3	06.05.14	C Freeman	Draft	Updated following comments from Expert Patient
4	20.04.16	C Freeman	Final	CCG sign off

Criteria for Commissioning Interventions for Varicose Veins

Surgical and associated management of Varicose Veins are procedures subject to threshold.

- Patients with bleeding varicose veins do not need prior approval and can be referred to a vascular service immediately.
- Conservative management should be the first line of treatment and applications will not normally be accepted for patients whose BMI is over 30.
- Interventional treatment of varicose veins will only be commissioned for patients aged 18 and over when any of the following criteria apply:
 - skin changes secondary to chronic venous insufficiency, for example pigmentation or venous eczema
 - at least two episodes of superficial thrombophlebitis
 - active or healed venous leg ulcers
 - a previous episode of bleeding from the varicosity
 - symptomatic varicose veins (veins associated with troublesome symptoms, typically pain, swelling, heaviness and aching)

If the patient does not fully meet these criteria, the clinician may still submit an application if exceptionalality can be demonstrated.

Requests for funding should be submitted on the appropriate form (appendix A).

National supporting evidence:

NICE CG168 The diagnosis and management of varicose veins July 2013
<http://publications.nice.org.uk/varicose-veins-in-the-legs-cg168>

NHS England Interim clinical commissioning policy for varicose veins November 2013
<http://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/N-SC035.pdf>