

**Tongue-tie in Breastfed infants**

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| **Commissioning decision** | **The CCG will provide funding for tongue-tie surgery for infants who meet the criteria defined within this policy.** |

**Policy Statement:**

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| Tongue-tie division is commissioned for infants, 16 weeks or younger, who are experiencing breast feeding problems assessed to result from the tongue-tie and despite having skilled support in breastfeeding management. |

**Rationale:**

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| It is reported that between 3% and 10% of babies are born with some degree of tongue tie or ankyloglossia. Of these, some will have no problem feeding, but a number will experience difficulty with establishing breastfeeding and tongue-tie division may offer some benefit. Surgery will be funded for those infants that do experience feeding problems as a result of the tongue tie. |

**Plain English Summary:**

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| Tongue-tie is a birth defect that affects up to 10% of newborn babies. It's more common in boys than girls.  Normally, the tongue is loosely attached to the base of the mouth with a piece of skin called the lingual frenulum. In babies with tongue-tie, this piece of skin is unusually short and tight, restricting the tongue's movement. This may prevent the baby feeding properly.  Treatment is not necessary if your baby has a piece of skin connecting the underside of their tongue to the floor of their mouth, but they can feed without any problems. However, where there are feeding problems a procedure called tongue-tie division can be performed.  Tongue-tie division involves cutting the short, tight piece of skin connecting the underside of the tongue to the floor of the mouth. It's a simple and almost painless procedure that usually resolves feeding problems straight away. |

**Evidence base:**

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| NICE guidelines on [Division of tongue-tie for breastfeeding](http://www.nice.org.uk/IPG149). |

Link to application form – Not applicable

For further information please contact [GLCCG.IFR@nhs.net](mailto:GLCCG.IFR@nhs.net)

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| **Date of publication** | 1st August 2015 |
| **Policy review date** | September 2022 |

**Consultation**

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| **Consultee** | **Date** |
| Planned Care Programme Board | 31st March 2015 (virtual) |
| CCG Governing Body Development Session | 4th June 2015 |
| GHNHSFT (via General Manager/Head of Contracts) | 18/05/2015 – 29/05/2015 |
| GP Membership (via CCG Live/What’s New This Week) | 06/05/2015 – 05/06/2015 |
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| Has the consultation included patient representatives? | **No** |

**Policy sign off**

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| **Reviewing Body** | **Date of review** |
| Effective Clinical Commissioning Policy Group | 14th April 2015 |
| Integrated Governance and Quality Committee | 18th June 2015 |

**Version Control**

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| **Version No** | **Type of Change** | **Date** | **Description of Change** |
| 1 |  | 1.8.2015 |  |
| 2 | Minor amendment | 11.7.16 | Minor amendment |
| 3 | No policy changes | 16.5.17 | Review date June 2019 |
| 4 | Date change | 17.9.19 | Review date changed to September 2022. NICE guidelines link checked up to date. |