

# Surgical correction or therapeutic intervention to correct Strabismus in Adults

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| **Commissioning decision** | Surgery or Botulinum Toxin (botox) injection to correct strabismus (or a squint where the eyes point in different directions) in adults is funded by the CCG for patients who meet the following criteria. |

# Policy Statement:

Surgery or interventions to correct strabismus (eye squint) in adults will only be funded by the CCG for patients who meet the following criteria:

* Strabismus measuring more than 20 prism diopters (eye squint) in people who cannot use both eyes together and are not likely to in the future ( have no binocular potential),or have a smaller angle of strabismus but abnormal eye movements.

**OR**

* The diagnostic use of Botulinum Toxin in adults who cannot use both eyes together because of strabismus (eye squint) which measures more than 20 prism dioptres.

**OR**

* The therapeutic repeat use of Botulinum Toxin for adults who cannot use both eyes together because of strabismus (eye squint) which measures more than 20 prism dioptres who are unable to undergo further strabismus surgery, or when general anaesthesia is contraindicated.

Revision Surgery or repeat surgery/surgeries are not routinely commissioned and an Individual Funding Request must be made to the CCG for consideration prior to any treatment taking place.

# Rationale:

There is good evidence that strabismus (eye squint) surgery is beneficial to patients, even if this does not result in an improvement or restoration of their ability to see using both eyes (binocular vision). The rationale behind this policy is to focus resources on those patients who are most likely to benefit from this type of surgery i.e. those with large angle squints.

**Plain English Summary:**

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| Strabismus or squint means a misalignment of the two eyes.    Surgery or interventions to correct a squint or eye misalignment in adults will only be funded by the CCG for patients who meet the following criteria:   * Where there are normal eye movements, but the squint (eye misalignment) is measured to be over a certain angle (20 prism dioptres) and treatment will not result problematic double vision.   OR   * Where the squint (eye misalignment) is measured to be over a certain angle (20 prism dioptres) and Botox (botulinum toxin) injection can be given which causes weakening of the muscle around the eye (reducing the squint) for up to three months, for diagnostic |

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| reasons to assess whether surgery will be helpful.  OR   * Where the squint (eye misalignment) is measured to be over a certain angle (20 prism dioptres), and the repeated use of Botox (botulinum toxin) injections into the muscle around the eye is helpful for adults for whom surgery is not possible or contraindicated   If you do not meet one of the above criteria for eye misalignment surgery and your doctor believes that you have exceptional circumstances they can submit an Individual Funding Request application to the CCG in order to seek funding approval for treatment. The CCG will review your case and if we agree that your circumstances are exceptional we will authorise funding. |

# Evidence base:

Royal College of Ophthalmologists document on adult strabismus: surgery <https://www.rcophth.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Strabismus-surgery-for-adults-in-the-United-Kingdom-indications-evidence-base-and-benefits.pdf>

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

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| **Date of publication** | 23.08.2018 |
| **Policy review date** | September 2023 |

**Consultation**

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| **Consultee** | **Date** |
| GP Membership (via What’s New This Week) |  |
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| Has the consultation included patient representatives? | Yes (via ECCP membership) |

**Policy sign off**

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| **Reviewing Body** | **Date of review** |
| Effective Clinical Commissioning Policy Group | 21 June 2018 |
| Integrated Governance and Quality Committee | 23.08.2018 |

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| **Version No** | **Type of change** | **Date** | **Description of change** |
| 1.0 | Initial document | June 2018 | New Policy |
| 2.0 | Refinement of criteria & change of category to CBA from INNF | Aug 2018 |  |
| 3.0 | Date | September 2019 | Policy review date changed to September 2020 |
| 4.0 | Wording revised | June 2020 | Policy wording revised to plain English summary. |
| 5.0 | Wording revised & Date | 17.9.20 | Plain English Summary Updated. Review date changed to Sept 2023 |