

Policy title	Bunion (painful deformed great toe) V2.1
Policy position	Criteria Based Access
Date of Forum recommendation	October 2021

A bunion (hallus valgus) is a bony deformity of the joint at the base of the big toe. The main sign of a bunion is the big toe pointing towards the other toes on the same foot, which may force the foot bone attached to it (the first metatarsal) to turn outwards.

Surgery for bunions for cosmetic reasons is **not normally funded**.

Referral for consideration of bunions surgery is supported only when the following criteria have been met:

- The patient suffers from severe pain or deformity (overriding toes) that cause significant functional impairment.

AND

- The patient has had no improvement in their symptoms despite engaging with conservative measures for 3 months. Conservative measures include the following:

- Avoiding high heel shoes and wearing wide fitting leather shoes which stretch
- Non-surgical treatments such as bunion pads, splints, insoles or shields.
- Simple analgesia

AND

- The patient and clinician have engaged in the Shared Decision-Making process to ensure the patient has had all the treatments options made available to them and they have actively participated in the decision to consider surgery.

Reference:

Royal College of Surgeons Commissioning guide: Painful deformed great toe in adults, 2017. Available at: <https://www.rcseng.ac.uk/standards-and-research/commissioning/commissioning-guides/topics/>

NOTE:

- Where a patient does not meet the policy criteria or the intervention is not normally funded by the NHS, an application for clinical exceptionality can be considered via the CCG's Individual Funding Request (IFR) Policy and Process.
- This policy will be reviewed in the light of new evidence or new national guidance, eg, from NICE.

Clinical coding:

M20.1 Hallux valgus (acquired) (bunion)

Soft Tissue Procedure T702, W791-2

Osteotomy W121-129, W131-2, W138-9, W141-6, W148-9, W151-7

Arthrodesis W03, W591-5, W598-9

Replacement surgery W532-2, W542-4, W573-4, W596

Key words: Bunion, hallus valgus, painful great toe

Policy update record*	
5th October 2021	1. Literature searched for new evidence; no changes recommended