

Policy title	Laser eye surgery in myopia v1.1
Policy position	Intervention Not Normally Funded
Date of Forum recommendation	October 2017

Laser eye surgery for myopia **is not normally funded**, and would only be considered on an exceptional basis through the Individual Funding Request (IFR) process.

Background

Myopia, commonly known as near-sightedness, is a condition that occurs when the eye focuses light on an area in front of the retina due to refractive apparatus being more powerful than is necessary to focus well. Conservative management of refractive errors revolves around the use of spectacles and contact lenses. There is no evidence to suggest that laser corrective surgery provides superior corrected acuity to spectacles or contact lenses and can cause a reduction in Best Spectacle-Corrected Visual Acuity (BSCVA).

NOTE:

- This policy will be reviewed in the light of new evidence or new national guidance e.g. from NICE
- 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 ICB's Individual Funding Request (IFR) Policy and Process

Clinical coding:

H52.1 Myopia

C44.2 Laser in situ keratomileusis

C44.4 Laser subepithelial keratomileusis

C44.5 Laser subepithelial keratomileusis

Key words: Myopia, near-sightedness