

Policy title	Lycra garments for children with neurological impairment V2.1
Policy position	Intervention Not Normally Funded
Date of Forum recommendation	October 2021

Lycra garments or lycra suit therapy has been proposed as an alternative or an addition to conventional physiotherapy intended to treat functional/movement impairments associated with cerebral palsy or other neurological impairment in children.

Due to the lack of robust supporting clinical and cost effectiveness evidence for this intervention lycra garments are **not normally funded**.

Requests for funding can only be considered on an individual patient basis. The application needs to be submitted by a local lead specialist physiotherapist or occupational therapist. The expected benefits for that patient over other treatments must be clearly quantified. Provision of any subsequent garments will depend on clear demonstration of benefit for the individual patient.

Rationale

Lycra splints are made-to-measure and consist of sections of lycra stitched together using specific tension, direction of pull, type of material (e.g. water absorbent for under the arms) and thickness. Boning can be included to give extra support. Splints range from hand splints to full body garments.

There are currently no NICE guidelines on the use of Lycra dynamic splinting. Very few studies have been published to assess the effectiveness and no studies have investigated the benefit of continuation in the long term. It is not clear as to what extra benefit it provides to the patient as compared to the other treatment options. Also, it is not clear whether there are patient groups or specific disabilities that may significantly benefit more than others.

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: No coding available.

Policy update record*	
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5th October 2021	1. Literature searched for new evidence; no changes recommended
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Key words: Lycra, Dynamic Splinting, Neurological Impairment