

Introduction

This policy review is part of a wider project to review and update more than 100 health policies by six Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in Merseyside. The review will ensure that the latest clinical guidance is applied consistently across Merseyside and that patients have access to the latest treatments.

Name of treatment or procedure

Surgery for prostatism / lower urinary tract ('waterworks') infections (UTIs).

Description of treatment or procedure

Infections can affect different parts of your urinary tract, including your bladder (cystitis), urethra (urethritis) or kidneys (kidney infection). Most UTIs can be treated easily with antibiotics but if this doesn't work or is not an option, surgery can be used to destroy all or part of the prostate.

Current policy

Surgery for prostatism / lower urinary tract infections is only commissioned where there are clear clinical reasons, when antibiotics and other non-surgical treatments have not worked, and in any of these circumstances:

- international prostate symptom score is greater than 7
- it is painful to pee (dysuria)
- post-voided residual is volume greater than 150ml
- recurrent, proven UTIs
- deranged kidney function
- prostate-specific antigen (PSA) > age adjusted normal values.

Proposed changes

Men will be referred for specialist assessment if they have one or more of the following conditions:

- lower UTIs complicated by recurrent or persistent UTIs
- the bladder isn't emptying fully
- kidney impairment, possibly caused by lower urinary tract dysfunction
- suspected urological cancer
- stress urinary incontinence (loss of bladder control)
- OR if a trial of the appropriate drug therapies or conservative management options have not improved symptoms.

Surgery for prostatism will only be funded:

- for voiding (emptying) symptoms only if they are severe AND if conservative management options have failed or are not appropriate
- for storage (retention) symptoms only if conservative management options have failed or are not appropriate.

Reason for proposed changes

The current policy is out of date and needs to be brought into line with more recent clinical guidance.

- See overview of NICE's recommendations for the treatment of lower urinary tract symptoms in men: <https://pathways.nice.org.uk/pathways/lower-urinary-tract-symptoms-in-men>

Summary of proposed changes

- The impact of the changes in this policy on patients are minimal. The purpose of the changes is to provide greater clarity to referring clinicians around the correct treatment pathways for patients with prostatism and gives far greater detail here than the current policy.
- However, engagement is required because there is a clear shift from a defined set of criteria under the current policy to a more pathway based policy.
- Men with prostatism / lower urinary tract infections are affected by this policy.