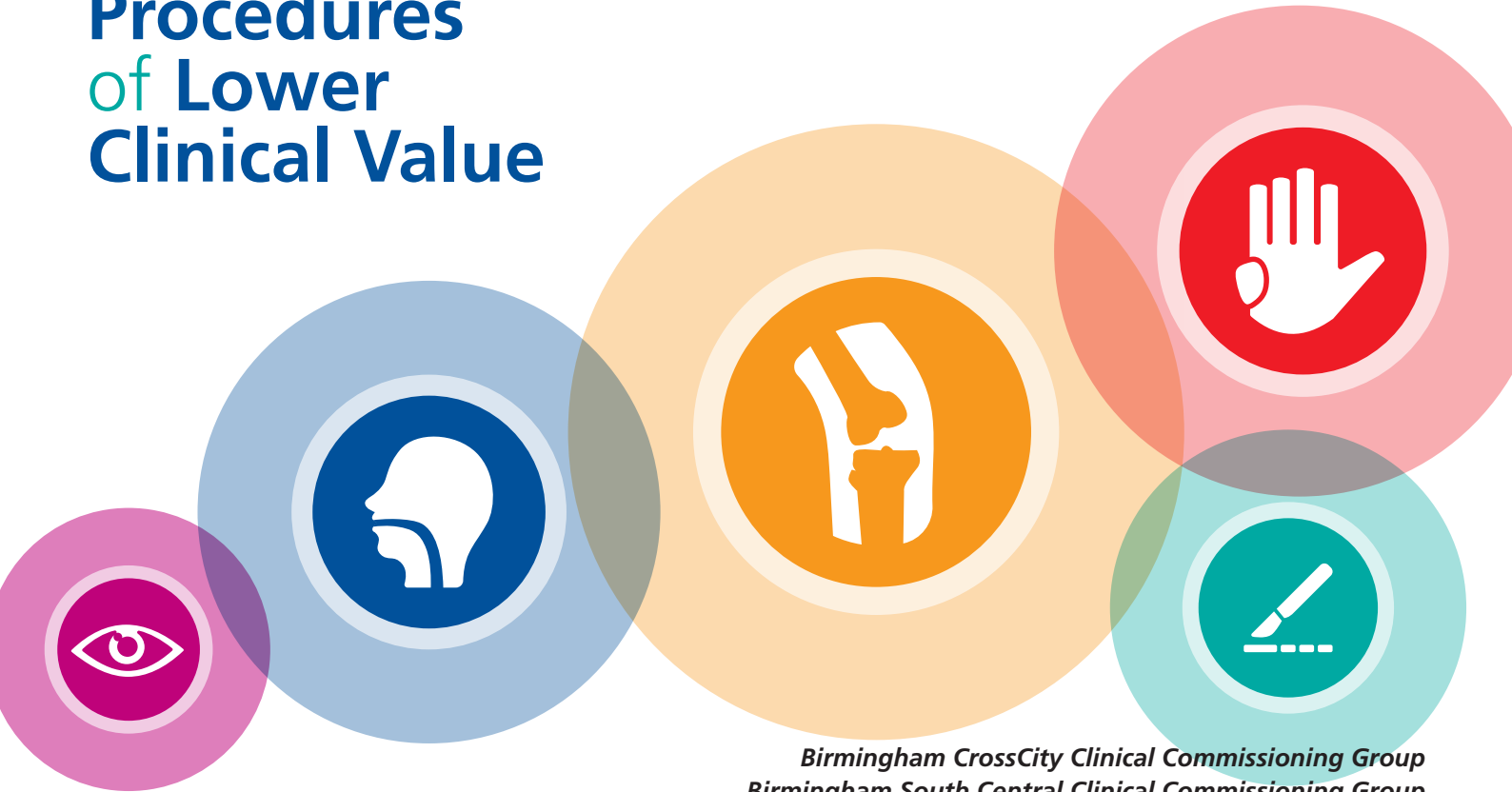


Policy for Procedures of Lower Clinical Value



*Birmingham CrossCity Clinical Commissioning Group
Birmingham South Central Clinical Commissioning Group
Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group*

Introduction

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) across Birmingham, Solihull and the Black Country, have been working together to make a core set of Procedures of Lower Clinical Value (PLCV) consistent across the region.

Birmingham CrossCity, Birmingham South Central, and Solihull CCGs are keen to hear your feedback about changes relating to the criteria of the policies.

What is PLCV?

Some routine procedures are now described as 'Procedures of Lower Clinical Value' (PLCV). PLCV refers to procedures that are of value, but only in the right circumstances. The main objective for having PLCV policies is to ensure:



Patients receive appropriate health treatment, in the right place and at the right time.



Treatments with no, or a very limited, evidence base are not used.



Treatments with minimal benefits to health are restricted.

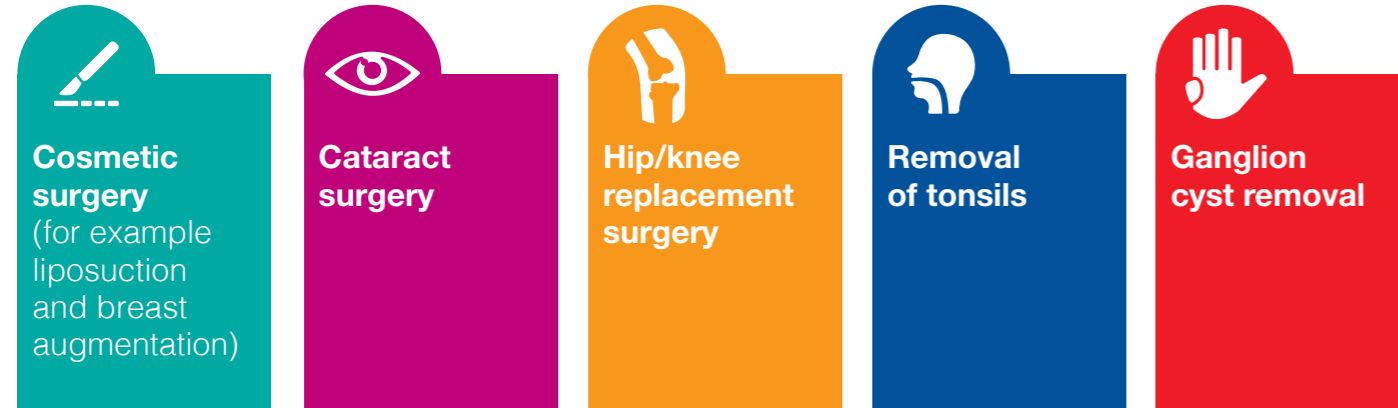
Why are we looking at Procedures of Lower Clinical Value?

At the moment, the criteria for a core set of PLCV may vary between areas. This can cause differences in the availability of some procedures between areas. You may have heard this called "postcode lottery" in the media and it can cause frustrations for both patients and clinicians.

The CCGs across Birmingham and Solihull believe there should be a single, consistent core set of policies which is fairer to patients. General Practitioners (GPs) and CCG staff have been working with colleagues from the local councils and public health to review each of the policies to ensure they are in line with robust clinical evidence and national guidance.

Which treatments are affected?

Here are some examples of the treatments that are classed as PLCV.

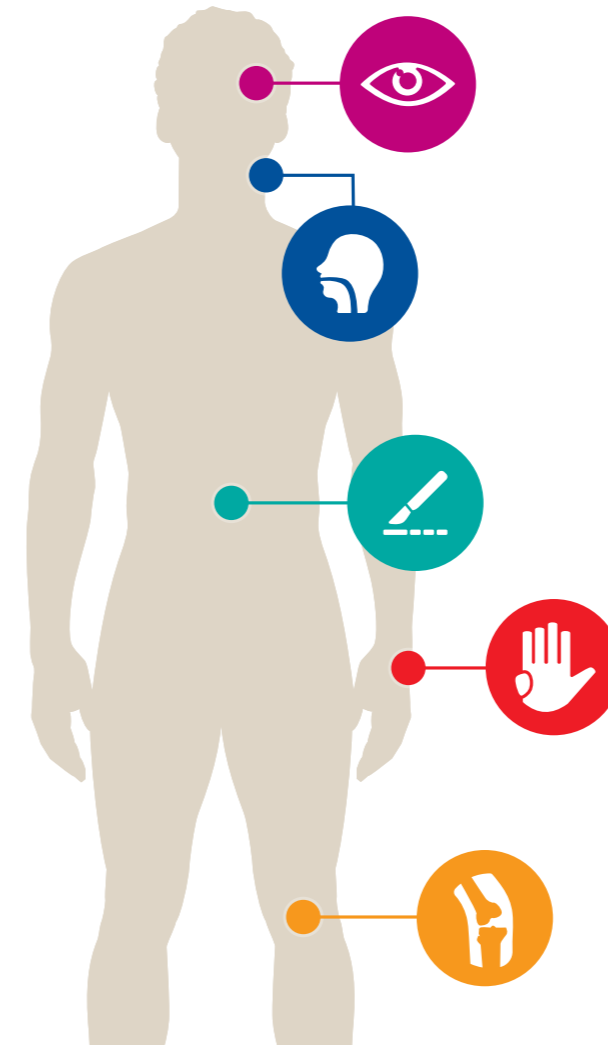


A full list of all treatments, applicable exclusions and criteria is available on:

bhamcrosscityccg.nhs.uk

bhamsouthcentralccg.nhs.uk

solihullccg.nhs.uk



What does this mean for patients?



By having one standardised core set of policies, all patients who may require a PLCV will have to meet the same criteria, wherever they live in Birmingham and Solihull. This ensures all patients are treated fairly.

There may be circumstances where a patient will no longer be able to receive a treatment, which they would previously been able to have. In these cases, the patient will be supported by their GP to consider the alternatives available to them, which may be of greater benefit.

The criteria for a core set of procedures will be the same, regardless of which GP the patient sees, or which hospital they attend across Birmingham or Solihull.

Does this mean that these procedures won't be carried out anymore?

No. All of the 45 procedures (21 policies) will still be available. However, the clinical access criteria for a procedure may have changed. If a patient doesn't meet the criteria in the policy, but the GP believes that their circumstances are exceptional, the GP can submit a request for the procedure to be paid for through an Individual Funding Request (IFR).

Is this about saving money?

No. The quality of care given to patients is the most important factor for these policies, not money. The development of these policies will help to ensure the NHS offers treatments, which are in-line with the latest available evidence.

Whilst we believe that standardising policies across Birmingham and Solihull will help us to deliver a more efficient service, our main priority is for PLCV to be offered fairly and consistently across Birmingham and Solihull.



How can I have my say?

You can give us your views by completing the survey at:

tinyurl.com/plcv-views-survey

For any queries email us at:
Involvement.mlcsu@nhs.net

Or call:
0300 404 2999 Ext 6852

Standard call charges apply



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