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Pwyllgor Gwasanaethau Iechyd  
Arbenigol Cymru (PGIAC)  
Welsh Health Specialised  
Services Committee (WHSSC)

**Policy Position:** Treatment of Hirsutism (hair depilation)

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<b>Approved by:</b>	Management Group
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## Document History

<b>Revision History</b>			
Version No.	Revision date	Summary of Changes	Updated to version no.:
1.0	17/05/17	Reviewed by Policy Group. Review date extended to 2020	2.0

<b>Approvals</b>		
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Management Group	10 April 2014	1.0
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## Policy Position Statement

<p><b>Background</b></p>	<p>The 2012 WHSSC Plastic Surgery Services Review recommended the replacement of 'Specialised Services Policy CP 39: Plastic Surgery' with a suite of sub specialty level policies :-</p> <p>CP42 – Treatment for benign skin conditions          CP43 - Facial Surgery Procedures          CP 44 – Body Contouring          CP 69 - Breast Surgery Procedures          PP 45 – Abdominoplasty/Apronectomy following significant weight loss.</p> <p>Health Boards agreed to adopt the new policies for the services they commission e.g. ENT, Breast Surgery, Oral Maxillio facial inter alia in order to ensure equity of access to treatment irrespective of the specialty undertaking the procedure.</p> <p>CP 39 included commissioning criteria for hair depilation for hirsutism (section 5.5.2) as historically this treatment had been undertaken by Plastic Surgeons. The new WHSSC Plastic Surgery Commissioning Policies do not reference treatment of this condition, as hirsutism is no longer considered to be a specialist condition requiring Plastic Surgery input.</p> <p>This policy position has been developed for referrals to Plastic Surgery for the treatment of hirsutism and is consistent with the Health Board Interventions Not Normally Undertaken (INNUs) policies.</p>
<p><b>Summary of Policy Position</b></p>	<p>The majority of referrals for hirsutism pertain to excessive hair growth in women in areas of the body where only men tend to develop coarse hair, primarily on the face and neck. Unwanted and excessive hair growth is a common problem and considerable amounts of time and money are spent on hair removal.</p> <p>Hirsutism affects about 5-10% of women, and is often quoted as a cause of emotional distress.</p>

	<p>Possible underlying causes include Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome (PCOS) a condition characterised by reduced fertility, ovarian cysts and increased androgen production; other rare hormone disorders and some forms of medication.</p> <p>Hair depilation for the treatment of hirsutism is not a specialist service and is a Health Board commissioning responsibility. Referrals to plastic surgery for treatment of this condition will not be routinely funded.</p> <p><b>Exceptions</b>  WHSSC will consider referrals to Plastic Surgery for Laser Hair removal in the following circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For patients on a pathway of care for gender reassignment, as defined in 'CP 21: Specialised Adult Gender Identity Services' <b>ONLY</b> for areas directly involved in reconstructive genital surgery.</li> <li>• Removal of hair from areas directly involved in reconstruction.</li> </ul> <p>Referrals for these exceptions are to be submitted as an Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR).</p>
<b>Responsibilities</b>	<p>Diathermy electrolysis and laser hair removal carried out under the specialty of dermatology is a Health Board commissioning responsibility.</p> <p>Laser hair removal under the specialty of plastic surgery is the commissioning responsibility of WHSSC.</p>