

Anal Fissure Commissioning Policy

Intervention	Surgery for Anal Fissure
OPCS codes	H56 Other operations on anus H561 Biopsy of lesion of anus H562 Lateral sphincterotomy of anus H563 Incision of septum of anus H564 Excision of anal fissure H568 Other specified other operations on anus H569 Unspecified other operations on anus
For the treatment of	Anal Fissure
Background	An anal fissure is a tear or open sore (ulcer) that develops in the lining of the anal canal.
Commissioning position	<p>This policy does not apply where there is suspicion of underlying cancer and patients should follow the detailed cancer referral pathway- see NICE Clinical Guidance 27.</p> <p>For Adult referral to secondary care the patient should meet at least one of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple, off the midline, large or irregular (atypical fissures) as these may be the manifestation of underlying disease • Chronic fissures that have not healed after 8 weeks of treatment with adequate dietary treatment measure, stool softeners or laxatives and treatment with topical GTN 0.4% ointment or if not tolerated diltiazem 2% ointment twice a day for 8 weeks. Stress to patients the importance of adherence. • Check if patient taking Nicorandil (a risk factor) <p>For referral of children to secondary care, the patient should meet at least one of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presenting with an anal fissure for the first time, with a clear history of severe constipation as causation, where the anal fissure has not healed after two weeks despite GTN 0.05% to 0.1% ointment. This should be prescribed by a specialist as it is not licensed for use in people aged less than 18 years. • Presenting with an anal fissure without a clear history of severe constipation, refer at first presentation. • Recurrent anal fissures.
Summary of evidence / rationale	See Clinical Knowledge Summary for Anal Fissure July 2016
Date effective from	December 2017
Date published	December 2017
Review date	December 2019

References:

1. Clinical Guidelines 27: Referral guidelines for suspected cancer
2. Clinical Knowledge Summaries Anal Fissures