

Bunions and Hallux Valgus Commissioning Policy

<b>Intervention</b>	<b>Bunion Surgery</b>
<b>OPCS codes</b>	<p>W79 Soft tissue operations on joint of toe</p> <p>W791 Soft tissue correction of hallux valgus</p> <p>W792 Excision of bunion NEC</p> <p>W793 Syndactylisation of lesser toes</p> <p>W798 Other specified soft tissue operations on joint of toe</p> <p>W799 Unspecified soft tissue operations on joint of toe</p> <p>W15 Division of bone of foot</p> <p>W151 Osteotomy of neck of first metatarsal bone</p> <p>W152 Osteotomy of base of first metatarsal bone</p> <p>W153 Osteotomy of first metatarsal bone NEC</p> <p>W154 Osteotomy of head of metatarsal bone</p> <p>W155 Osteotomy of midfoot tarsal bone</p> <p>W156 Cuneiform osteotomy of proximal phalanx with resection of head of first metatarsal</p> <p>W157 Osteotomy of bone of foot and fixation HFQ</p> <p>W158 Other specified division of bone of foot</p> <p>W159 Unspecified division of bone of foot</p> <p>W59 Fusion of joint of toe</p> <p>W591 Fusion of first metatarsophalangeal joint and replacement of lesser metatarsophalangeal joint</p> <p>W592 Fusion of first metatarsophalangeal joint and excision of lesser metatarsophalangeal joint</p> <p>W593 Fusion of first metatarsophalangeal joint NEC</p> <p>W594 Fusion of interphalangeal joint of great toe</p> <p>W595 Fusion of interphalangeal joint of toe NEC</p> <p>W596 Revision of fusion of joint of toe</p> <p>W598 Other specified fusion of joint of toe</p> <p>W599 Unspecified fusion of joint of toe</p>
<b>For the treatment of:</b>	<b>Hallux valgus (bunion) surgery for the treatment of a deformity of the joint connecting the big toe to the foot</b>
<b>Commissioning position</b>	<p>Humber Coast and Vale CCGs do not routinely commission surgery for asymptomatic hallux valgus (bunion), regardless of cosmetic appearance. Concerns about cosmetic appearance should not be referred to secondary care. These procedures will not be funded.</p> <p>All patients should be referred to local podiatry services prior to referral to secondary care. This does not affect the existing diabetic foot pathway</p> <p>URGENT referral required if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• skin ulcer not healing</li> <li>• diabetes</li> <li>• peripheral limb ischaemia</li> </ul> <p>Requests for the removal of symptomatic bunions will ONLY be considered where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservative measures have failed (these include trying accommodative footwear, considering orthoses and using appropriate analgesia.)</li> </ul> <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The patient suffers from severe pain on walking (not relieved by chronic standard analgesia) that causes significant functional impairment</li> </ul> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Severe deformity (with or without lesser toe deformity) that causes significant functional impairment OR prevents them from finding adequate</li> </ul>

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	<p>footwear</p> <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recurrent or chronic ulceration or infection</li> </ul> <p>All other cases need to be referred for consideration by the Individual Funding request panel.</p>
<b>Summary of evidence / rationale</b>	<p>NICE CKS makes clear that referral for bunion surgery is indicated for pain and is not routinely performed for cosmetic purposes<sup>1</sup>.</p> <p>Conservative treatment may be more appropriate than surgery for some older people, or people with severe neuropathy or other comorbidities affecting their ability to undergo surgery.</p> <p>Referral for orthopaedic or podiatric surgery consultation may be of benefit if the deformity is painful and worsening; the second toe is involved; the person has difficulty obtaining suitable shoes; or there is significant disruption to lifestyle or activities.</p> <p>If the person is referred for consideration of surgery, advise that surgery is usually done as a day case. Bunion surgery may help relieve pain and improve the alignment of the toe in most people (85%–90%); but there is no guarantee that the foot will be perfectly straight or pain-free after surgery.</p> <p>Complications after bunion surgery may include infection, joint stiffness, transfer pain (pain under the ball of the foot), hallux varus (overcorrection), bunion recurrence, damage to the nerves, and continued long-term pain. There is very little good evidence with which to assess the effectiveness of either conservative or operative treatments or the potential benefit of one over the other.</p> <p>Untreated HV in patients with diabetes (and other causes of peripheral neuropathy) may lead to ulceration, deep infection and even amputation.</p>
<b>Date effective from</b>	December 2017
<b>Date published</b>	December 2017
<b>Review date</b>	December 2019

**References**

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4. Nix S; Smith M; Vicenzino B. Prevalence of hallux valgus in the general population: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *J Foot Ankle Res* 2010;3:21
5. NICE. Surgical correction of hallux valgus using minimal access techniques. 332. London: National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence; 2010.
6. Ferrari J; Higgins JP; Prior TD. Interventions for treating hallux valgus (abductovalgus) and bunions. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev* 2004;(1):CD000964
7. Saro C; Jensen I; Lindgren U; Fellander-Tsai L. Quality-of-life outcome after hallux valgus surgery. *Qual Life Res* 2007 Jun;16(5):731-8