

Endoscopic Thoracic Sympathectomy for Hyperhidrosis Commissioning Policy

<b>Intervention</b>	<b>Endoscopic Thoracic Sympathectomy</b>
<b>OPCS codes</b>	R61*
<b>For the treatment of:</b>	<b>Primary hyperhidrosis of the upper limb</b>
<b>Commissioning position</b>	<p>Humber Coast and Vale CCGs do not routinely commission Endoscopic Thoracic Sympathectomy.</p> <p>Applications will only be considered by the individual Funding Request Panel (IFR) where exceptional clinical circumstances are demonstrated. All cases require prior approval.</p> <p>In view of the risk of side effects, this procedure should only be considered in patients suffering from severe and debilitating primary hyperhidrosis that has been refractory to other treatments. (These may include topical agents, oral medication, botulinum toxin injections and iontophoresis.)</p> <p>Endoscopic Thoracic Sympathectomy does not work as well for those with excessive axillary (armpit) sweating.</p>
<b>Summary of evidence / rationale</b>	<p>Recent NICE guidance (IPG 487 May 2014) indicates that the evidence base for the efficacy and safety of this procedure is “adequate” but there is a risk of serious complications (including death from major intrathoracic bleeding); it is not always effective; and it can cause hyperhidrosis (“compensatory”) elsewhere on the body (in around 80% of cases, of whom 33% reported symptoms that were “severe” or “incapacitating”).</p> <p>The primary indication is palmar hyperhidrosis because it is less effective for axillary symptoms. It should only be considered in patients suffering from severe and debilitating primary hyperhidrosis that has been refractory to other treatments.</p> <p>Further research is required to establish good patient selection and to identify which patient characteristics might predict severe side-effects.</p>
<b>Date effective from</b>	December 2017
<b>Date published</b>	December 2017
<b>Review date</b>	December 2019

**References**

1. NICE Clinical Knowledge Summary – Hyperhidrosis
2. NICE IPG 487 (May 2014) Endoscopic Thoracic Sympathectomy for primary hyperhidrosis of the upper limb: guidance