



Clinical Thresholds

Condition or Treatment	Vasectomy under General Anaesthetic
Commissioning Threshold	The CCG commissions vasectomy services under local anaesthetic in primary care or Marie Stopes. Vasectomy under general anaesthetic is not routinely commissioned.
Referral Guidance	<p>Exceptional cases can be referred to the CCG's Individual Funding Request Panel for prior approval.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Referral Form</p> </div>
Effective from	April 2013
Summary of evidence / rationale	<p>The purpose of vasectomy is to provide permanent birth control. A vasectomy is a male surgical procedure to cut or tie the vas deferens as a reliable method of contraception, usually done under local anaesthetic. The vas deferens is a tube that carries sperm from the testicles.</p> <p>NHS Harrogate and Rural District CCG recommends that men who request a vasectomy are fully assessed and counselled before the procedure is given, including taking the medical history of both partners to ascertain if the procedure is, indeed, the most appropriate intervention.</p> <p>Most vasectomies are carried out under local anaesthetic. This means only the scrotum and testicles will be numbed. The RCOG Guidelines recommend a general anaesthetic should usually be used if there is a history of allergy to local anaesthetic and/or surgery has been carried out before on the scrotum or genital area.</p> <p>The RCOG Guidelines also recommend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a 'no-scalpel' approach as there are lower levels of complications such as bleeding, pain and infection • the use of fascial interposition or diathermy • clips are not used due to high failure rates • local anaesthesia is used wherever possible • effective contraception be used before the operation and until follow-up tests show that the vasectomy has been successful • practitioners must be trained to the level of the FSRHC requirement (ref 5).
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Contact for this policy	<p>Dr Bruce Willoughby GP / Governing Member Brucewilloughby@nhs.net</p>

References:

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<http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2004/9241562668.pdf>
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3. Cook LA, Pun A, van Vliet H, Gallo MF, Lopez LM. Scalpel versus no-scalpel incision for vasectomy. Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2007 Apr 18;(2):CD004112
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD004112.pub3/pdf>
4. Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists (RCOG). Male and female sterilisation. Evidence-based Clinical Guideline No 4. London: RCOG Press; 2004.
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6. Faculty of Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. Syllabus and Logbook for the Certificate in Local Anaesthetic Vasectomy. London: RCOG. Press; 2010.
<http://www.fsrh.org/pdfs/VasectomyLogbook.pdf>
7. FPA Factsheet on male and female sterilisation.
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